

'Catastrophe' for world heritage



A monk offering water to one of the rescue workers at the basilica. The rubble inside was three metres deep

Treasures of 13th and 14th century left cracked and crumbling

after earthquakes rock central Italy, reports Richard Owen

TWO powerful earthquakes which struck Italy yesterday killed at least nine people and badly damaged 13th and 14th century frescoes by Giotto and Cimabue in the basilica of St Francis of Assisi.

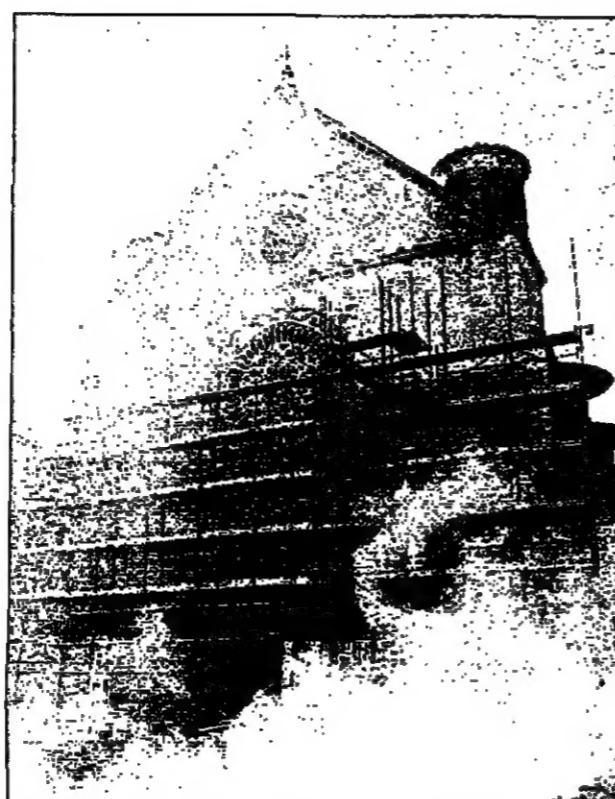
The dead included two Franciscan friars and an art restoration expert, who were examining damage caused by the first shock when the second, more severe, earthquake brought down the vaulted ceiling of the upper church of the basilica.

One of the friars, aged 25, had only just joined the order at Assisi. The other was aged 40. Rescue workers said they feared that more people could be trapped beneath three-metre layer of rubble.

The partial collapse of the church was described as "a pure catastrophe for world heritage" by the director of the Louvre. One Cimabue masterpiece, *The Acts of the Apostles*, appeared to have been almost completely destroyed.

"This is all that is left of one Cimabue fresco," said Constantine Centroni, the Superintendent of Fine Arts for Umbria, as he held a pile of dust and crumbling plaster in his hands. Behind him bulldozers and masked rescue workers shifted fallen masonry in the doorway of the basilica and clouds of dust billowed out.

A section of vaulting depicting an early church figure, attributed both to the young Giotto and Cimabue, was also believed to have been de-



Dust clouds rising as rescuers remove debris in the basilica, where three people were killed

stroyed and at least two Giotto frescoes had jagged cracks running down them.

Water supplies and road and rail traffic were disrupted across central Italy, and the Government declared an emergency.

The first earthquake, measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale, was at 2.33am. The second, at

11.42am, measured 5.7. Both were felt as far north as Alto Adige, in the Italian Alps, and 60 miles south in Rome, where buildings swayed.

Umbria, the epicentre, often has minor tremors and residents and art experts had long feared a major shock which would pose a risk to the many art treasures in towns such as

Professor Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, flew to the disaster area with Walter Veltroni, the Deputy Prime Minister and Culture Minister. An Italian cultural affairs minister described the damage to the works of arts as "enormous".

Pierre Rosenberg, director of the Louvre in Paris, said:

"We will do all we can to help our Italian colleagues."



The first earthquake cracked this Giotto fresco of St Francis and St Clair. It was destroyed by the second

Assisi and Perugia. Yesterday's earthquakes damaged buildings in the 15th-century town of Urbino, in the Marche, which has a ducal palace that is one of the jewels of European art and architecture.

The first earthquake was most strongly felt in villages near Assisi and in the relatively remote hill towns and villages of the Appenines. Two elderly couples from the villages of Collecurti and Cesi, in the Marche, were among those who died. Italian television, which interrupted normal programmes throughout the day to carry reports from the area, showed weeping villagers — many of them elderly — standing outside the ruins of their homes. Several villages have been evacuated in case of aftershocks.

Civil defence officials said more than 2,000 people had been made homeless because their houses were damaged or unsafe. Tents and blankets stored after the 1976 Friuli earthquake were distributed with fresh drinking water and medicines.

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It was the damage at Assisi which caused greatest concern. The giant basilica was begun in 1228, two years after the death of St Francis, and its decoration attracted the leading artists of the day. They included Giotto di Bondone (1266-1337), who is credited with laying the foundations of the Renaissance — and there

fore of all modern art — by abandoning the flat, mannered style of Byzantine painting and creating rounded, lifelike human images.

The basilica, divided into upper and lower churches, houses St Francis's tomb, which was discovered only in 1818. It has wall frescoes by Giotto, his mentor Pietro

Cavallini (1259-1344), Simone Martini (1284-1344) and Giovanni Cimabue (c1240-1302).

Giotto's cycle of 28 frescoes on the life of St Francis has just

been restored, amid scholarly

controversy over which were painted by him and which by Cavallini.

Officials said the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli, in

the plain below Assisi, which was built over St Francis's original hermit's hut, had also been damaged.

The epicentre of the earthquake was near Foligno, 20 miles from Assisi, now a largely modern town. Foligno hospital and the Romanesque cathedral at Bevagna were also badly damaged.

The plain below Assisi, which was built over St Francis's original hermit's hut, had also been damaged.

The damage to the 13th century Basilica coincided with preparations to mark the anniversary of the death of St Francis on October 3 in 1226.

Father Ruf said that the surviving monks would remain in the monastery adjoining the basilica.

The shock waves were felt as far south as Rome where a

cage iron chandelier fell from a reception room in the Italian Senate, severely damaging an usher who was walking underneath. Damage was severe also in the Umbrian town of Foligno where the bell tower of the city's cathedral collapsed.

Two friars killed as second shock brings down ceiling

Rescuers are using sniffer dogs and bulldozers to find those buried in the rubble, writes John Phillips in Assisi

RESCUE workers used wheelbarrows, miniature bulldozers and spades to find the bodies of the dead as the full horror of the earthquake sank in.

Outside the basilica relatives of a municipal draughtsman trapped inside the church, and feared dead, berated television crews for blocking the path that ambulances were using to take out the dead and injured.

Armed police pushing wheelbarrows and civil protection workers using miniature bulldozers piled heaps of rubble on the lawn in front of the basilica as tourists, monks and nuns watched. Late last night police began using sniff-

er dogs to try to find other people who might be buried under the masonry.

The head of the basilica's restoration team said that he had been among about 30 people who were inside the basilica when the second earthquake struck. Sergio Fusetti said that the group was expecting damage and had inspected the building at around 2.40am. He had not expected that there would be a second earthquake.

"When the shock happened we lifted up our heads and saw fragments of the basilica falling on us. We were about thirty people at the time. Some of us began to run and we



where I couldn't see anything. The rubble was up to my hips. I saw a light in one part of the cathedral. I had to climb over rubble, and kept falling. I was kind of in shock. I went toward the light and managed to get out a window," he said.

"There was dust every-

where. I couldn't see anything. The rubble was up to my hips. I saw a light in one part of the cathedral. I had to climb over rubble, and kept falling. I was kind of in shock. I went toward the light and managed to get out a window," he said.

adding that he saw two bodies in the rubble near the front entrance.

"It was the worst damage ever to the cathedral since it was built," said Major Giorgio Bartolini, covered with dust and his trousers

ripped at the knee.

In a nearby street, nurses

brought out weeping elderly women from a rest home.

Shops in the area were closed last night. Residents loaded their cars with pillows, bedding and other belongings.

Two hundred people reported damage to their homes.

Fontano Bartacci, 57, owner of the hotel Il Palazzo, lost his home. "We're scared. We've been through it before, but this is the worst tremor we've felt so we're leaving," he said. His family would stay on the outskirts of town in a friend's camper van.

There are conflicting reports about whether the earthquake had caused serious damage to the most important frescoes within the basilica executed by Giotto and Cimabue. First reports quoted the Superin-

tendent of Fine Arts for Umbria, Constantine Centroni, as saying that works by the two had been gravely damaged.

However, a German monk, Father Gerhard Ruf, who is responsible for the photographic archive of the basilica, later made a tour of the church to take photographs and said that there were only minor cracks at most to the works by Giotto and Cimabue. He said the main damage was to a fresco in the transept of the basilica, which has been attributed to Jacopo Torriti among others.

Father Ruf said: "Last night I thought that after the first shock it was all over. But the second shock was really much bigger. Thank God that we decided to close the church to tourists this morning. It was by the grace of God that there

were relatively few people inside the church."

In Assisi yesterday evening many residents decided to spend the night out of doors in parks or in cars parked outside the city.

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WORLDWIDE

Burglar who read Who's Who is jailed

Violent antiques thief leafed through the reference work to select judges and peers and planned each raid in great detail, reports Joanna Bale

A SELF-TAUGHT antiques expert who used violence to force his accomplices to burgle victims whose addresses he got from *Who's Who*, was jailed for 20 years yesterday.

Nick Stock masterminded the theft of antiques worth more than £2 million in 200 raids across two counties. Police said that since his arrest, the burglary rate has dropped dramatically.

He travelled hundreds of miles to reconnoitre his target properties, belonging to judges, peers and a vice-admiral. He then cut telephone wires and disconnected burglar alarms before sending in his men.

Stock, 34, was said to know enough about valuables to star on BBC1's *Antiques Roadshow*. Sometimes he raided houses when the owners were in bed because he knew people usually did not switch on their burglar alarms while they were at home.

Detective Sergeant Dave McKinney, who headed the police inquiry, said after the case: "He would often reace a house months in advance. He would never forget a room.

His gang would then return and he was able to tell them exactly what to take and where it was located. He was ruthless and treated the members of his gang terribly, using violence to secure their attendance at the burglary. He has an evil air about him."

The gang would get rid of what they stole immediately, selling it, or hiding it in nearby woods or undergrowth for collection at a later date. Once they smothered stolen property in fox holes to confuse police sniffer dogs. Only a small amount of the stolen property has been recovered.

Detective Constable Dave Johnson said: "The money went straight into Stock's pocket. Those of the gang that weren't afraid of him got their fair share, but there were those who saw nothing."

Stock was caught when one of his accomplices, Colin Marshall, asked for police protection because he feared his boss was planning to kill him. Marshall is now part of the witness protection scheme. A second informant provided further evidence.

Sentencing Stock to one of



Stock: "had an air of evil about him"

the longest terms for burglary in recent years, Judge Michael Brodrick told him: "These burglaries are by a wide margin the most serious I have ever encountered."

Stock, of Fareham, Hampshire, was pleaded guilty at Winchester Crown Court to three burglary conspiracies stretching over five years. He was also sentenced for conspiracy to rob George's jewelers in Southsea, Hampshire, for which a jury had found him guilty.

Stock's gang of accomplices were also jailed.

Stephen Cooleedge, 36, of Fareham, was sentenced to 14 years: 9½ years for conspiracy to burgle, Kevin Wilcox, 26, of Lee-on-Solent, was sentenced to three years for burglary.

Dale Saunders, 26, of Fareham, was given a community service order of 200 hours for burglary.

Michael Hanton, 29, of Boscombe, Dorset, was given a suspended sentence of two years for conspiracy to burgle. Karl West, 27, of Portsmouth, was sentenced to three years for burglary.

James Iles, 21, of Portsmouth, Hampshire, was given an 80-hour community service order for dishonesty assisting the removal of stolen property.

to rob, one year for the possession of a firearm with intent and 3½ years for conspiracy to burgle, to run consecutively.

Clay Meader, 22, of the same address, was sentenced to five years for conspiracy to rob and 12 months for conspiracy to burgle, to run concurrently.

Darren Nicholas, 22, of Crookhorn, Hampshire, was sentenced to nine years for conspiracy to burgle and 12 months for actual bodily harm, to run concurrently.

Richard Bateman, 32, of Fareham, was sentenced to three years for conspiracy to burgle. Michael Pearce, 38, of Sarsis Green, Hampshire, was sentenced to 4½ years for burglary.

Darren Kearns, 27, of Fareham, was sentenced to four years for conspiracy to burgle. Kevin Wilcox, 26, of Lee-on-Solent, was sentenced to three years for burglary.

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Michael Gottlieb is served by a waiter in a hygiene suit in Café La Futura

Food rules protest is on a plate

BY PHILIP DELVES BUGHTON

RESTAURATEURS have finally had it with the wave of regulations foisted upon them by what they regard as the health nuts and cleanliness freaks of officialdom.

The Restaurateur's Association of Great Britain is fighting back against the health scares with shock tactics of its own. It has designed a hideous vision of the restaurant of the future, crippled by regulation, to be unveiled at the Labour Party conference in Brighton tomorrow.

Café La Futura is an epicurean's nightmare of what a restaurant could be like in 2020.

Food police prowl the floor, the waiters look like astronauts in their "hygiene suits" and ask diners: "Which menu have you been assigned? Low Risk, High Risk or the Menu for Those Challenged with Personal Obesity?"

One diner is asked to step on the scales before he orders a steak sandwich. Pregnant women are refused alcohol and steak knives are blunted to avoid injury.

Michael Gottlieb, chairman of the association, said that every issue tackled could be traced to a regulation somewhere in Europe or America.

Rush for lottery tickets may mean £28m jackpot

BY CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A HUGE last-minute surge in sales of National Lottery tickets is expected today, which could push the double rollover jackpot to £28 million. Ticket sales have increased by 20 per cent in the past two days.

Many are expected to choose number 44 because it has been drawn more times than any other since the Lottery began in 1994. It has been picked 43 times in 183 draws and has appeared in the last three draws.

If the jackpot is won by one person he or she will become the biggest single winner to date. The highest jackpot ever won on a single ticket was £22,590,829, which was won in June 1995 by Mark Gardiner and Paul Maddison.

If there is no winner today, Camelot said that it will produce the first triple

rollover with an estimated jackpot of £50 million.

The double rollover, which is a result of there being no jackpot winners last Wednesday or Saturday, is only the third since the lottery began. In January last year there was a statistically unusual occurrence with two double rollovers in succession. Statisticians predicted that this should happen once in 400 years.

Camelot said that during the last double rollover, sales on the Saturday passed £60 million, peaking at £9 million in one hour in the afternoon.

David Epstein, a mathematics expert at Warwick University, said: "Of the 49 numbers, each has a one-seventh chance of being drawn. There have been 183 draws, which means each number should have been

picked 26 times, but the number 44 has been picked 43 times. It is just one of those patterns that emerges when you have random numbers. But 44 will not be picked 43 times during the next 183 draws. You will see something else you didn't expect."

The absence of winners in the last two draws may have been influenced by the fact that many of the numbers drawn were high. Most people tend to pick lower numbers relating to birthdays or the ages of their children.

If the jackpot is not won, and it rolls over to Wednesday, Camelot said that if there is no winner then the prize money will be shared among those who picked five winning numbers.

Professor Epstein said that the more people who buy tickets, the greater the likelihood of a winner.

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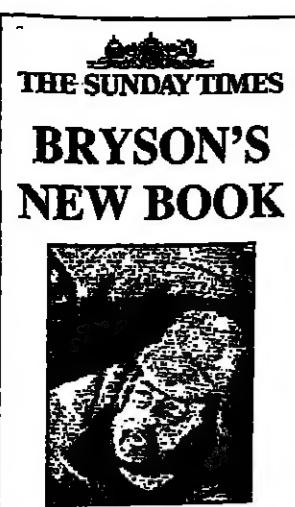
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Freed paedophile will strike again, detectives warn

BY STEWART TENDER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A PAEDOPHILE convicted of killing 14-year-old Jason Swift was in hiding last night after warnings from detectives that he has been freed to strike again. Robert Oliver, now 42, was released after serving eight years of a 15-year sentence for the manslaughter of Jason in 1985.

He is not subject to any supervision or recall because he was convicted before new regulations were introduced allowing checks to be kept on prisoners freed early.

Three other men, including Oliver's lover, are still prison for the crime.

Yesterday police officers involved in the arrest of Oliver said they fear that the register will not prevent him from re-offending. One detective who tracked Oliver down said: "His main interest in life was abusing children and there is little chance of him being cured of it. He would represent a very serious menace."

He will also have to give any change of name as well as his original name. A friend who met him at a rendezvous near

Wandsworth Prison after his release said Oliver would register.

But the Home Office said that if Oliver had only been convicted of murder or manslaughter he would not have been required to.

The offences covered by the Act were strictly limited and there is no separate offence of child murder or manslaughter.

Oliver was also convicted of conspiracy to commit buggery, which brought him on to the register.

One member of the gang, Leslie Bailey, was also convicted of killing Barry Lewis, six, from south London, and Mark Tildesley, seven, from a Berkshire fairground. Bailey was later found strangled in his cell at Whitemoor prison in Cambridgeshire.

Oliver had already been jailed for five years in 1977 for procuring three boys for acts of gross indecency and an indecent assault on a boy aged 16.

Co-defendant Sidney Cooke, 66, is freed next April. They have said they will live together after a form of wedding.

Bill Bryson treks through the Appalachians with an old schoolfriend. Exclusive extracts from his hilarious new book start tomorrow



Toyah Willcox, who has submitted more than 20 planning applications

Actress's plan for folly is thwarted

BY HELEN RUMBLE

VILLAGERS have blocked an attempt by Toyah Willcox, the actress and her husband Robert Fripp, the rock musician, to build an "overpowering" ornate folly at their 18th-century manor.

Miss Willcox moved into Reddish House, a Grade II listed building in Wiltshire, in the early 1980s, and has made more than 20 planning applications. Her proposal for ornamental gates and a pavilion was rejected by Salisbury District Council after protests from local people.

Planning officers had recommended that the application be accepted but, after Broadchalke Parish Council unanimously objected, the planning committee refused permission, David Parker, its chairman said.

David Gilbert, vice-chairman of the parish council, said: "We just feel it is a never-ending saga."

Soldiers in Cyprus brawl case go free

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN LARNACA

THREE of the five British soldiers accused of assaulting a group of English tourists in Cyprus walked free yesterday after the prosecution accepted they could not have been involved.

The prosecution is now also considering whether to postpone indefinitely the separate trial of another soldier on the same charges because of the high costs involved.

There is now the prospect of just one soldier remaining in the dock even though the court has already heard from several witnesses that eight off-duty soldiers were involved in the fight. The Army has never disputed this.

The incident outside a night-club early last month highlighted the Army's apparent difficulty in maintaining discipline among off-duty soldiers on the island. Three Royal Greenjackets are serving life for sexually assaulting and battering to death the Danish tour guide, Louise Jensen.

In the present case one tourist, Shane Bell, 23, had his jaw broken in three places and another, Barry Ford, needed 22 stitches to his face and head after he was beaten senseless. His girlfriend, Claire Har-

bour, 22, a nursery school nurse, suffered a badly bruised wrist.

They were appalled by yesterday's developments which signalled the virtual collapse of the overall prosecution case.

The prosecution decided to withdraw assault charges against three of the accused as it became clear they had been mistakenly picked out of a police identity parade.

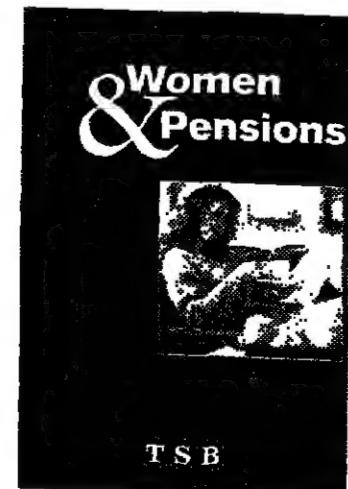
Even a witness for the prosecution provided alibis for the trio, testifying last month that he was with two of them in a hamburger bar at the time of the fight.

Legal sources said it was most unlikely anyone else would now be charged since the main witnesses had already failed to correctly identify three of the defendants.

The three soldiers to be cleared are Steven Wolstenholme, 26, from the Manchester area, Steven Girvan, from Manchester, and Tim Carter, from Liverpool, both 20.

The prosecution is considering whether to postpone indefinitely the trial of Stewart Spencer. He is to appear in court again next Tuesday with a fifth defendant, Roger Bell.

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Britons race against time in Nevada desert to go supersonic

Thrust powers to a world-beating 714mph in the Black Rock

sands. The next stop is Mach 1, writes Giles Whittell

WITH a formidable new land speed record under their belts and a smoothly-running 700mph car, the *Thrust SSC* team plans to continue its bid to break the sound barrier on land with test runs resuming as early as today.

Craig Breedlove, the American, was expected to re-enter the high-speed duel in Nevada's Black Rock Desert yesterday, but only with "engineering runs" at up to 500 mph. Meanwhile, Andy Green, the *Thrust SSC* driver, and the small army of technicians who maintain his twin-jet car took yesterday off after an afternoon signing autographs and an evening of celebration. By that time, congratulatory messages had been received from the Queen and 10 Downing Street.

Today, weather permitting, the team will return to its meticulous schedule of gradual acceleration towards the speed of sound. Richard Noble, the team's leader, has vowed to "get the job done" by cramming as many runs as necessary into whatever time remains before autumn rains.

He faces mounting debts on his return to England, since each run costs an estimated \$33,000 (£20,000) and he lacks an overall corporate sponsor — a fact that angered him even as champagne flowed.

"We've got people in borrowed cars and sleeping on borrowed mattresses," he said. "The corporate sponsors haven't come forward so far, and I don't expect them to."

Squadron Leader Green may already have come closer to the sound barrier than expected. Speaking after his record-breaking runs at an average speed of 714mph on Thursday, he said he could feel trans-sonic shock waves forming on the car and had detected subtle handling dif-

ferences. His father, Tony Green, 72, said yesterday he and his wife, Betty, had turned down an offer to watch the attempt. "We thought about going but we decided that Mum and Dad radiating nervousness would not do at all."

"He rang us afterwards and was bubbling over, euphoric. We know it is dangerous but it is what he wants to do and he is happy."

Thursday's second run at 728mph may have been at Mach 0.93 rather than the intended Mach 0.92 because of a following wind of 15mph. Ron Ayers, the project's aerodynamicist said:

Despite the presence of shock waves, the possibility of *Thrust SSC* losing its vaunted stability and becoming airborne as it passes through them remains remote, the team believes, since sensors indicate that the car's downforce on the track has remained constant.

"There were so many critics who said what we were trying to do was impossible, so there's an intellectual satisfaction in having got this far," added Mr Ayers, a former chief aerodynamicist at British Aerospace. He added, however, that "we're in a region of aerodynamics that changes very rapidly indeed".

Mr Ayers likened an assault on the sound barrier to "climbing a vertical mountain — every handhold and foothold must be checked". This approach makes a serious attempt on Mach 1 unlikely for the next few days.

The pursuit of the world land speed record began in France in 1898. The Briton, Malcolm Campbell, captured the record in 1924 in his Sunbeam Bluebird, travelling at 141mph.

Dunkirk spirit, page 22



From London to Paris in less than 16 minutes

TRAFFIC permitting, *Thrust SSC* could put a severe dent in world travel times (Adrian Lee writes). At its average speed of 714mph, journeys are impressively swift:

- London to Birmingham (118 miles): 9 minutes, 54 seconds
- Land's End to John o'Groats (870): 73 mins, 6 secs
- London to Paris (187): 15 mins, 43 secs
- London to Istanbul (1,560): 131 mins
- London to New York (2,989): 251 mins, 11 secs
- London to Edinburgh (399): 33 mins, 12 secs
- London to Rome (907): 76 mins, 12 secs
- London to Coningsby (Andy Green's RAF base, in Lincolnshire) (136): 11 mins, 24 secs
- Around the M25 (117): 9 mins, 48 secs

Computers test the safety limits

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE designers of *Thrust SSC* are relying on computer modelling and a rocket-driven test of a scale model to ensure that it can exceed the speed of sound safely.

Nobody has ever done it before. In aircraft the shockwaves that build up close to the speed of sound can be dispersed in all directions, but on land there is a risk that by bouncing off the ground they could disturb the attitude of the car.

If that happened, it could fly up in the air or bury itself in the desert. Ron Ayers, the team's aerodynamicist, insisted on computer simulations using a Cray supercomputer

before he was convinced that it could be done. The simulation was reassuring, but showed that, close to the speed of sound, forces tend to become volatile. "The problem is the forces and pressures acting on the car are constantly changing and so it sets new problems for the design of the car," Mr Ayers said.

To confirm the simulations, a model of *Thrust* was propelled on a sledge by a rocket motor at speeds of up to 820mph. This showed the levels of forces expected to act on *Thrust*.

To ensure that any out-of-balance forces can neither flip the car upwards nor drive it downwards, the designers fitted *Thrust* with an active

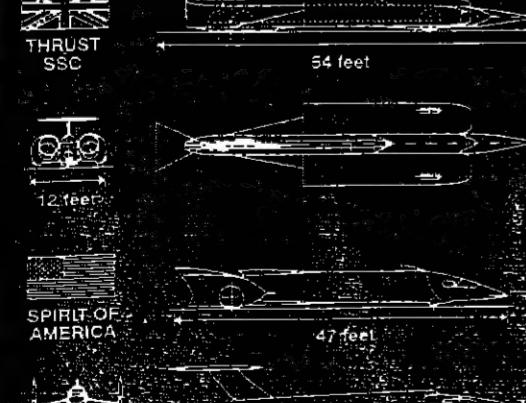
suspension system on the rear wheels which can be triggered by out-of-balance forces in a split second to alter the attitude of the car. If the forces tend to drive *Thrust* upwards, the suspension will move to increase downforce and prevent the car taking off.

The turbulence does not all hit the car at the same moment. Because air is flowing over it at different speeds, depending on the curvature of the body at that point, there is a large region in which airflows are a mixture of subsonic and supersonic.

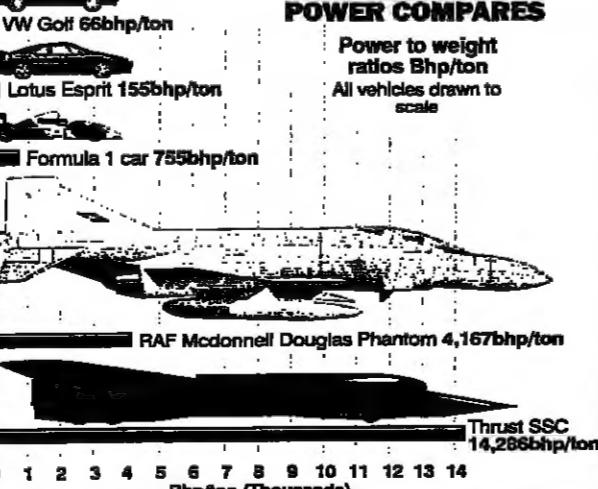
Andy Green, who is piloting *Thrust*, is already well into this region, and has reported evidence of it from his 700mph runs. The speed of sound is around 750mph.



HOW THE CHALLENGERS COMPARE



HOW THRUST SSC'S POWER COMPARES



Challenger: Spirit of America
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Power: 48,000hp
Weight: 4.5 tons Speed: Mach 1.747mph?
Pilot: Craig Breedlove Age: 50
Breedlove's track record: First man through the 400, 500 and 600mph barriers
and 1000m marathon barrier

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English vineyards finally bear fruit

English wine-makers are predicting one of the country's best vintages after a summer of almost perfect conditions for their vines. A hot August with just enough rain followed by this week's benign weather have brought grapes to the peak of perfection several weeks earlier than usual. Picking of early varieties has already begun in many of the hundreds of vineyards which have sprung up since the 1970s.

But for around half the country's vineyards it will be a bitter harvest. The grapes may be of the highest quality but there are far too few of them. On the night of April 21 an icy hand brushed the southern half of Britain. The same blast of cold air wiped out the fruit harvest in Kent and frosted vines from Bordeaux to northern Italy.

In his study in Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, Rowland Dunkley, a retired physicist turned winemaker, could only watch as sensors in his vineyard recorded the air temperature falling to -3.6C.

A couple of weeks later the daytime temperature was nudging 27C, encouraging his six acres of vines to put out their first delicate shoots from the buds which had survived. Then the frost returned. For four hours on the night of May

8 the temperature was lower than -2.6C.

The next morning the shoots were all fried brown," said Mr Dunkley. "We lost 75 per cent and instead of producing 8,000 bottles this year we will be lucky to make 2,000. The consolation is that those grapes we do have are extremely good quality with a high sugar content." The frost may have blessed those vineyards it did not destroy. If this year's vintage fulfills its promise, it may prove a turning point in the public perception of English wine.

At the Three Choirs vineyard, the second largest in England, 30 pickers set to work this week bringing in the first of what promises to be the best harvest since it was established in 1973. Vines cover 70 acres of

gently rolling Gloucestershire countryside where orchards once stood. The original fruit growers had chosen the site well and the vineyard escaped the frost virtually unscathed. Winemaker Martin Fowke said: "I have been here ten years and the grapes are better this year than ever seen. We expect to produce around 200,000 bottles." English wines have been dogged by misconception and prejudice since their revival began more than 20 years ago. The first and most fundamental was that we are too far north to produce good quality grapes.

According to Mr Fowke this is the opposite of the truth.

Cooler conditions in England

produce grapes with a better flavour than those grown in hotter climates.

Britain produces some of the best top fruit in the world and it is the same with grapes," he said. "In fact, vines do so well here that we have to beware of over-cropping. We restrict the number of bunches of grapes to improve the quality and also the leaf growth because the plant tends to put its energy into greenery rather than fruit.

The relatively cool summers mean that fruit doesn't cook on the vine and in fact in many countries they will pick at night or shade the vines to reproduce exactly the conditions we have here."

Choosing the right variety of vine is crucial and most vineyards grow several to spread the risk and the chance of the harvest being disrupted by the weather.

Although England is unlikely ever to produce the finest quality red wines, because the grapes simply won't ripen, many vineyards are now making top-quality sparkling wines and international awards won by Three Choirs and other English vineyards are proof of their success in making light, fruity white wines.

The quality may rival their counterparts from the New World as well as the old but the tiny quantities mean they are always likely to be in short supply.

In the Middle Ages, England was covered with vineyards, many attached to monasteries. The Domesday Book recorded 12 in Somerset alone. But the acquisition of Bordeaux through the marriage of Henry II to Eleanor of Aquitaine in 1152 provided a cheap alternative supply. Those monks who did toll on the vineyards saw the fruits of their labours destroyed when Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries. The revival began with growers such as Mr Dunkley, who planted vines in his garden in Chorley Wood as an experiment in the mid-1960s. He bought his



Fowke: "I have been here ten years and the grapes are better this year than ever"

JANE MACQUITTY'S TOP FIVE

DESPITE the recent blast of sunshine, England's 1997 wine crop will not prove to be the vintage of the century unless this mild spell continues into October when the last grapes are picked. The last really good English and, to be precise, Welsh vintage was 1995. That was the freak year when a sweltering August led to a surprisingly sunny autumn and England's '95s were accordingly superb. 1989 was another such English *annus mirabilis*.

Apart from the BBC, or "blasted British climate", as one English vigneron put it, the other rule that the 1,900 acres of English and Welsh grapes suffer is the usual technologically inept English winemaker. Most grapes are sent away to one of 150 odd commercial wineries and the end result reeks of classic winemaking faults such as searingly high acidity, oxidation and hydrogen sulphide, the nasty smell associated with rotten eggs. The good news, owing to imported expertise, most notably in the shape of the Australian-trained John Womtschak, who makes the Thames Valley wines and consults for dozens of other wineries, is that England's wines are improving dramatically with every vintage.

Today what you can expect from a decent English wine is not the cloying pseudo-Germanic white of yesteryear but a

unique northern style of our own: a fresh, delicate, floral, crisp yet grapey style. Here are my top five in order of excellence.

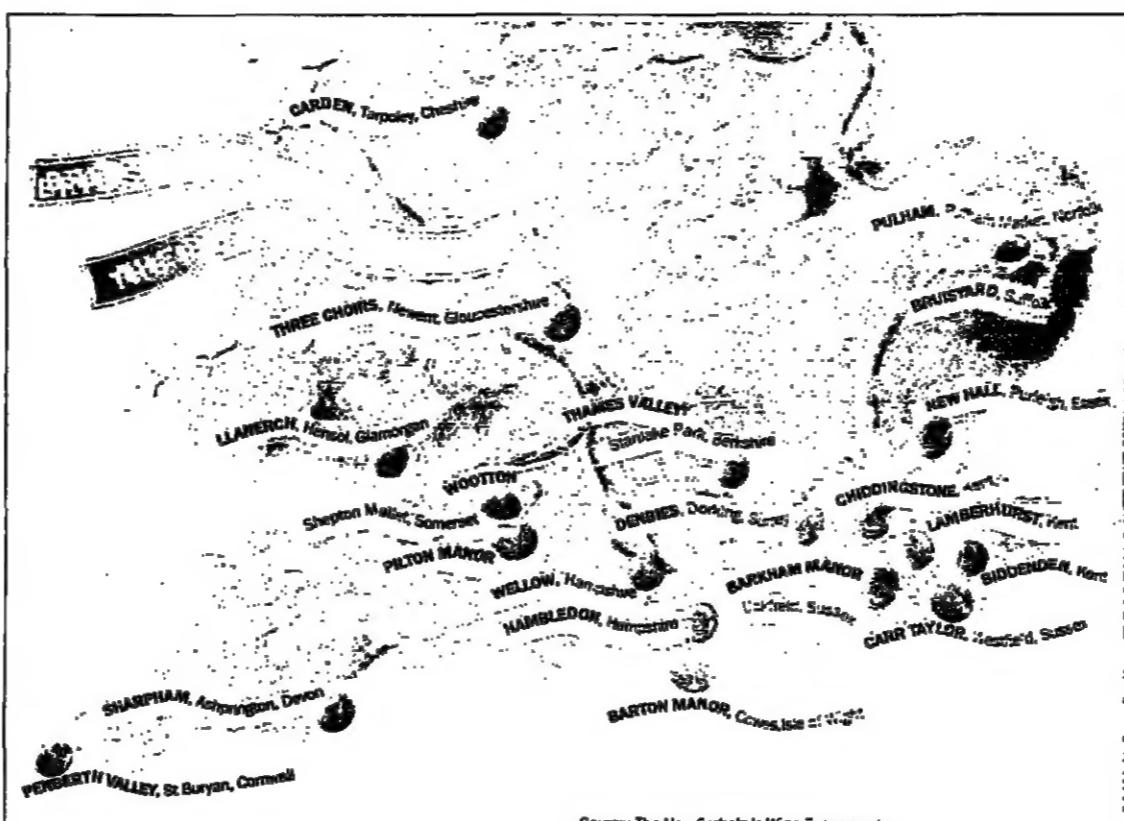
1: 1993 Thames Valley Vineyards Fumé (Thresher, Wine Rack, Bottoms Up, £6.89; Majestic Wine Warehouses, £8.99). Rich, golden, dry white with a smoky-oleo scent and floral palate that indicates the wine has been aged in oak.

2: 1995 Denbies Late Harvest (half bottle, Oddbins and Denbies, London Road, Surrey, £5.99). A rare treat: an English dessert wine made from late harvested, noble rot-affected grapes just like all the great sweet wines of the world.

3: 1996 Chapel Down Bacchus (Wine Cellar, Berkeley Wines, £6.49). The palate here is so verdantly curranty that many will mistake this for a French sauvignon blanc.

4: 1995 Beenleigh Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot (from Beenleigh, Sharpham House, Ashprington, Totnes, Devon, £14.99). An English red made from classic Bordeaux grapes, Beenleigh's red is the best we have made yet.

5: 1995 Northbrook Springs (Majestic Wine Warehouse, £4.99). A cracking English aperitif.



Source: The New Schlesinger's Wine Encyclopedia



Dunkley: lost 75 per cent of crop to frost

UK WINE IN A BOX

Vineyards in England and Wales	413
Acres in production	1,915
Acres under vine	2,384
1996 production	2,396,000 litres
1995 production	1,279,500 litres
Bottles per acre	3,000
Duty per bottle	£1.06
Percentage of UK market	0.2

Tesco has even introduced a policy of offering regional wines.

But many small producers such as Mr Dunkley simply don't produce enough to make it viable for the supermarket buyers.

"I could sell to a supermarket but they would probably want a minimum of 500 cases, which might be my entire production for the year," he said. "I sell a lot to personal visitors to the vineyard and also through hotels and restaurants within a 15 to 20 miles

radius." For those with a few acres of sheltered, south-facing, well-drained land who would like to set up a vineyard as a small business, Mr Dunkley has one word of advice: "Don't".

"It is not a very good way of investing your capital," he said. "There is a very substantial outlay on equipment you might only use three days a year and not very much return. I do it because I enjoy it, not because it will make me rich."

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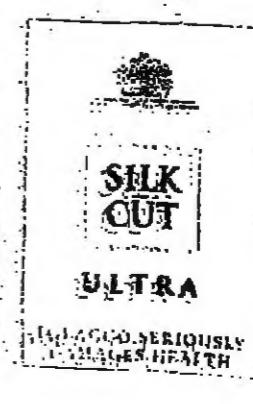
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ESTI

Saudis enraged by tabloids' attack on Islam

THE West appears determined to demonise the beliefs and practices of Islam, and this is causing enormous resentment in Saudi Arabia, the Saudi Ambassador to London said yesterday. He did not mind criticism of his country, he said, but he resented the way that the British press had denounced the whole concept of Islamic justice.

In an attempt to defuse the political fallout, he said no one in his Government had taken offence at the remarks by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, that the sentence on one of the nurses was unacceptable, as it was merely defending British interests.

"I have no problem with anyone criticising Saudi Arabia," Dr Ghazi al-Gosaibi said. "But I have a lot of problems with people insulting Islam, because Islam is a divine revelation. And a lot of the things that were said — I hope in the heat of the moment — were offensive not just to Saudi Arabia but to many Muslims."

The ambassador is at the centre of the urgent diplomatic



The Saudi Ambassador tells Michael Binyon he resents a billion Muslims' religion being insulted over the nurses

attempts to ensure that neither of the two women is flogged or beheaded. From the start of the case, he has been in constant touch with Andrew Green, the British Ambassador in Riyadh, with the Foreign Office and with the senior members of the House of Saud who, under Saudi law, have the final word on clemency.

He did not hide his worries that screaming tabloid headlines were making things more difficult. Indiscriminate use of the words "primitive" or "barbaric" were deeply offensive, he said. There were about a billion Muslims in the world. Not every one took the Koran literally; but the vast majority did, and the teachings on sin and on capital punishment were explicit.

Some religions chose to water down their teaching and have it just as a private belief. Others did not, and take it as the literal word of God.

"I was hoping, while this debate is going on, that it would be kept in the confines of consular limits. This is a case of two British subjects accused of a crime in Saudi Arabia, and justice will take its course through due process. It happens here to Saudis. It happens to all citizens living abroad. We should be very careful not to insult the sensitivities of other people."

Mr Cook, he insisted, had not done that: he had a job to do to defend British interests, and that is what he had done. "I don't find anything offensive in what he said."

Dr al-Gosaibi, a former minister and political scientist who has published 40 books, saw dangers of a self-fulfilling clash of cultures. He cited telling examples of Western hypocrisy and failings. He ranged across the torrent of argument over "fundamentalist" Islam and political extremism. But he returned to what he called dispassionate objective analysis. "Some Saudis may say, 'Why did God destroy Sodom and Gomorrah and save Paris and London?' If we start exchanging this kind of 'dialogue', we

would really be in great difficulty."

To criticism that the trial was not open nor the evidence published, he noted wryly that virtually nothing was conducted in public in the desert kingdom. People did not speak about their wives or their illnesses. "This is a secret society." But that did not mean that the judges were not

meticulous in examining the evidence. They were trained to take an adversarial approach to the police, not simply to accept police evidence or confessions. Otherwise, evidence could be fabricated and there would be no justice. Saudis were satisfied their system served them well.

He admitted that procedures were evolving, as Saudi

society became more complicated. A generation ago a judge might deliver 20 judgments as he walked from his house to the mosque. Now there were three-man courts, five-member appeal courts, a supreme council and review by the King.

He was modest about his own role, wincing at the "unfortunate" fact that news of the case came out as he was hosting Saudi national day, with warriors wielding their swords in traditional display in the opulently refurbished embassy. He noted that "diplomats tread carefully, where others rush in." But "all our jobs are about damage limitation".

He denied that the tough sentence was an attempt to show dissident hardline opinion that Westerners were not treated any differently; any sensitive murder case was automatically reviewed, with appeals for clemency.

And, as he noted with the dry wit that darts between all his arguments, "our judges do not read the tabloids". Dr al-Gosaibi had only sympathy

for the dilemma of Frank Gilford, the dead nurse's brother. "He has been hounded and subjected to daily harassment. I really pray that he should be given some space to think it over."

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And on that, he was optimistic. There was no crisis in Anglo-Saudi relations: trade would not be affected; justice would be done to the nurses.

Simon Jenkins, page 22
Letters, page 23



Riyadh signs UN ban on cruelty

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AS THE sentence of 500 lashes was pronounced on the British nurse Lucille McLaughlin, Saudi Arabia was quietly joining a United Nations convention outlawing "cruel, inhuman or degrading" punishment.

The UN reported on Wednesday that it had acceded to the *Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1984 and in force three years later.

Human rights experts say McLaughlin's sentence, and the possible beheading of Deborah Parry, would violate the convention, although Saudi Arabia usually enters a

reservation requiring that no UN treaty provision contravenes Islamic law.

"Our view is that lashing as it is applied in Saudi Arabia does not constitute torture, not simply cruel and unusual punishment, because it is harsh and does draw blood and inflict pain," Clarisa Bencomo, a researcher for Human Rights Watch in New York, said.

The group has asked King Fahd not to ratify the sentence and to investigate the trial procedure.

The convention establishes the UN Committee Against Torture, which can receive complaints from signatory states about breaches by other treaty members.

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Simon Jenkins, page 22
Letters, page 23

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Asylum seekers' amnesty refused

The Government has rejected calls for an amnesty for asylum seekers to cut the backlog of 50,000 applicants waiting to settle in Britain.

Amnesty International had accused the Government of not doing enough to tackle outstanding cases. Mike O'Brien, the Home Office Minister for immigration, said the Government was committed to reducing the backlog but said there would be no "desperate measures". He told Radio 4's *Today* that a blanket amnesty would encourage abuse of the system.

Boy killed

An eight-year-old boy died after falling from a horse chestnut tree that he had climbed to gather conkers near his home in Wigan. Marc Abbott hit his head on the pavement and died in hospital.

Blast memorial

A memorial was unveiled in Dublin to 33 people who died in bombings in the city and the Irish border town of Monaghan on one night in 1974. The bombs were blamed on loyalist terrorists.

Glider death

A woman died after her motorised glider crashed and burst into flames. The incident happened shortly after take-off from North Weald airfield, Essex. The woman, aged 55, died at the scene.

Bodies charge

A sculptor and another man appeared before Horseshoe Road Magistrates' Court accused of stealing body parts from the Royal College of Surgeons. They were bailed to December 11.

Ferry arrests

Police in Hull arrested 12 Dutch passengers on board a ferry after fights broke out during the journey from Rotterdam. One man was detained in Hull Royal Infirmary with facial injuries.

Piped aboard

Three pipes — 375 gallons — of top quality port, ordered by Admiral Nelson shortly before he left for the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805, were sold for £2,200 at Aylsham, Norfolk, yesterday.

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And they're buying a Steinway to heaven

PHOTOGRAPHS: PETER NICHOLLS



A piano decorated by Queen Victoria's cabinet makers and inscribed with the signatures of famous composers should fetch £800,000, writes Dalya Alberge

A STEINWAY admired by the composer Sir Arthur Sullivan and said to be the most artistic piano ever produced is expected to fetch £800,000 at auction.

The 1885 neo-classical masterpiece holds the record price for any piano sold. It was decorated by two leading 19th-century artists and the furniture makers to Queen Victoria.

Leading musicians of the day, as well as society figures, amended glittering soirees: some, including Sir Arthur and Richard Rodgers, the composer of *The Sound of Music*, left their signatures on the inside of the piano lid.

Henry Marquand, the American philanthropist, collector and founding president of the Metropolitan Museum

of Art in New York, commissioned Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema to direct its decoration. Alma-Tadema, one of the most fashionable artists of the period, was given a "limitless budget" to decorate the music room of Marquand's Madison Avenue mansion.

The design features spectacularly ornate inlay in mother-of-pearl, coral and ivory with classical motifs and figures such as the muses, Apollo and Bacchus. Laurel sprigs, tendrils of Roman acanthus, beaded mouldings and a Grecian lyre are also represented.

Above its keyboard is an exquisitely delicate panel, by Sir Edward Poynter, fashioned as a tablet of an ancient festival. Poynter once described the instrument as "the most beautiful piece of work, both for the design and the workmanship, that I ever saw ... in fact, I do not believe that anything has ever been done to equal it".

Christie's, which will sell it on November 7, describe it as "a masterpiece of 19th-century neo-classicism ... the most 'artistic' piano ever produced".

It took Queen Victoria's cabinet makers and upholsterers, Messrs Johnstone, Norman & Co, four years to embellish the Steinway; they displayed it in 1885 in their Bond Street showroom and the Prince and Princess of Wales were the first to see it. Even the colour scheme picked up on Grecian vases. Long since the Madison Ave-

nue building was demolished, a painting the muses of sacred and epic poetry created by Frederic Leighton for the ceiling has been lost and other objects have been dispersed around the world: the Victoria & Albert Museum has a pair of chairs.

The piano, positioned under it, is inlaid with ribboned wreaths bearing the Grecian names of Apollo and the Muses of artistic inspiration. Elaborately carved legs with eagle-winged lions were added to Apollo and were inspired by a Pompeian marble table. Greek vases are scattered around the room.

The record price fetched in 1980 was £177,272. The private collector later lent it to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts from 1986 to 1995.

The neo-classical decoration of the piano took four years to complete; the carved legs with eagle-winged lions were inspired by a Pompeian marble table

A WHITE Ensign found by Captain Scott on a beach in Antarctica in 1902 sold for £28,750 at Christie's in London yesterday (John Vincent writes).

The flag, picked up by Robert Falcon Scott during his first expedition in *Discovery*, had been expected to

fetch no more than £5,000. It was a relic of Carsten Borchgrevink's British Antarctic Expedition of 1898-99, the first expedition ever to winter on the inhospitable Antarctic mainland.

Borchgrevink and nine explorers

were landed by the Southern Cross in February 1899. One man died in October and the ship returned in late January 1900 to collect the survivors.

Scott and his men were the next visitors. In January 1902, and the *Discovery*'s second surgeon, Edward Wilson, noted: "The litter around the huts was very interesting and the waste excessive. The huts looked like the centre of a rubbish heap."

In the same sale, a Union Jack that accompanied Sir Ernest Shackleton on his last expedition fetched £14,950.

The flag was presented to him by George V in September 1921, only months before the explorer's death on January 5, 1922. The King gave the flag to Shackleton before he set out in the *Quest* on his fourth expedition to the Antarctic.



Flag found by Scott was relic of rival expedition

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When life at the top is just not enough

Alexandra Frean on why career women quit their jobs for family

PROFESSIONAL women in their forties and fifties are leaving high-powered careers and "downshifting" in a quest for greater satisfaction.

Contrary to the popular perception that the careers of businesswomen take off once they achieve mid-life maturity and their children leave home, new research from Cambridge University shows that this is precisely the time when many decide to step off the career ladder, start their own companies or work part time.

Ambitious women in their twenties and thirties are will-

ing to make personal sacrifices in order to achieve career advancement, believing that once they have reached a certain level of promotion, and once their children are older, the pressures of home and career will diminish and they will find it easier to cope with the stresses of holding down a high-powered job in male-dominated environments.

But according to Dr Terri Apter, a social psychologist and fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge, many women, particularly those working in predominantly male profes-

sions, simply find that the pressure never eases off, even after two decades.

"When they reach secure positions at the age of 40 and 45, they look back and realise that the trophies of their professional advancement have been achieved at too high a price. They decide they want more personal fulfilment from life," she said.

The findings come after the decision of Brenda Barnes, 43, to quit her job as chief executive of PepsiCo's huge successful North American arm to spend more time with her

children. She spent 22 years working her way up the corporate ladder.

Dr Apter's research, which was presented at the Pennell Initiative conference on women's health organised by the University of Manchester and held in London yesterday, identifies four types of women — traditionalists, innovators, expansive women and protestants — who experience these changes in different ways.

Dr Apter, who based her research on interviews with 80 British and American women, believes that the exodus of middle-aged women from professional life is due to psychological and sociological factors and cannot just be accounted for by the fact that many undergo mood changes when they reach the menopause.

"This is not a case of women dropping out because they can't hack it. It is about women deciding to make choices for themselves. In mid-life many become determined to make a new start — some set up their own companies, others cut back their hours or switch to new jobs," she said.

Her findings could have far-reaching implications for businesses as they compete in a changing commercial world. Companies are beginning to realise that they will not be able to sustain a varied and advanced pool of experienced and highly qualified senior



The trophies of women's professional advancement are achieved at too high a price, says Dr Terri Apter

FOUR TYPES OF WOMEN AND THEIR ATTITUDES TO WORK

■ Traditionalists: identify themselves primarily as wives and mothers and believe that their family's needs take priority. Today they often feel marginalised, outmoded, under-powered and obscured by high-profile images of career women.

■ Innovators: deliberately set out to be new career women, pioneers in a man's world. Many have children but work hard to change the patterns of marriage and maternity.

At work, many tone down anything that is obviously female about them.

Most stick with their careers throughout the most pressured domestic times, but at mid-life their career progress often stalls. As husbands get promoted and children leave home, they scale down their professional commitments so that they can work in a less pressured environment.

■ Expansive women: feel that they lived the first decades of adulthood in a narrow corridor, blocked through lack of confidence and confined by lack of skill or education or self-awareness.

They see midlife as an opportunity to expand their horizons and set new goals. Some go back to school, or to work, or to qualify for new types of work.

■ Protesters: try to make up for lost ground after being constrained by responsibilities in early adulthood, such as being a teenage mother, looking after sick parents.

Dr Apter's research was based on in-depth interviews with 80 women in the US and the UK aged between 40 and 55. They were interviewed four times between 1990 and 1994 and again in 1997.

managers if top women continue to leave before they have achieved their full potential. Val Hammond, chief executive of the Roffey Park management institute in Horsham, West Sussex, said although successful professional men and women reassessed their lives in their forties, the experiences of women were often more complex.

"A lot of women say, 'Well I'm never going to get to the very top, so continuing here seems meaningless.' It is a

great loss to companies," she said. Ms Hammond noted that even where women were offered the very top job in a company, they were more likely than men to turn it down. "Being offered the job is often enough for women because it proves that they could do it and that's all they need," she said.

Campaigners for women's equality are equally concerned that companies will never achieve the critical mass of senior female employees that

is needed to change work cultures if the exodus of female bosses continues. Sheila Diplock, director of the Fawcett Society, which campaigns for women's equality, said: "Rather than fight to change the culture, women on the whole are saying, 'This is too much like hard work. It's more pleasurable to go off and make a different life'."

Claire Walmsley, managing director of Boxclever, a communications training company, is typical of the

professional women leaving high-powered jobs in big companies to set up on their own. Ms Walmsley, 52, left the BBC to set up her company in 1990. "It is easy to get demoralised within a large organisation," she said. "You have to fight your corner all the time, rather than just get on with the job. I felt that my talents were not being used properly at the BBC. Now they are and I am much happier."

Two faces of Cherie, page 19

May her light continue to shine ...

All profits will be donated to the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund.

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THE BRADFORD EXCHANGE

Why single life does not begin at fifty

Breaking up is so very hard to do.

Philip Delves

Broughton finds

the older you are

the tougher it is

tion end up separating is that their husbands find their success hard to take.

"For men over a certain age, when they come home, they want to talk about their work. They have no interest in listening to their wife talking about her work. They start to put her down and, in time, communication between a couple falls apart."

Gillian Gee, 57, separated from her diplomat husband ten years ago. She now works for Oxfam but in the wake of her divorce found both work and social life difficult.

"For some reason, divorced or widowed men are always being set up by their female friends with potential new partners. Separated women over 50 become like widows and the invitations dry up." One woman who works with Mrs Currie says: "Edwina is happier now. Leaving her husband is about her settling down. She has moved on from being an MP and is cutting all kinds of strings and setting up as a single woman living alone in London."

It is a fine picture: Edwina Currie as the post-menopausal Bridget Jones.



Edwina Currie is "setting up as a single woman"

Rabbi says inequality threatens Jewish future

By HELEN RUMBLE

A RABBI has given warning of the demise of Anglo-Jewry if its Orthodox wing does not compromise when she says are its sexist ways.

Rabbi Jacqueline Tabick said that women rabbis, whose status is not accepted by the Orthodox, encountered prejudice both comic and sinister. In an address to the Anglo-Jewish Association on Wednesday, Rabbi Tabick risked reopening the rift between Orthodox and Progressive Jewry that followed the death last year of the renowned Reform Jewish leader, Rabbi Hugo Gryn.

Some members of the congregation at the West London Synagogue, where Rabbi Tabick has applied to succeed Dr Gryn as senior rabbi, believe that mixed feelings surrounding her application

are the result of prejudice. Rabbi Tabick, an associate rabbi at the synagogue and acting leader, is competing with five men for leadership of the country's biggest Reform synagogue.

Dr Richard Stone, a member of the rabbinic appointments committee, said the synagogue had drawn up a shortlist of six candidates, including Rabbi Tabick. The prospect that the senior rabbi of the largest synagogue in Britain could be a woman awakens a lot of issues people have about equality," he said.

"There are a whole lot of things that need to be balanced."

Rabbi Tabick said: "The Torah is written by men for men in such a way as to contain the power of women," she said, "which strikes us as

very unfair." Referring to the difficulties encountered by "chained women" — wives who cannot obtain a get (a divorce in Jewish law), Rabbi Tabick said: "It's dreadful that we have to go to English law to solve the problem of inequality in Jewish law."

Some young women in the audience disagreed with Dr Tabick, arguing that being too open would lead to the end of Judaism.

"I understand being scared of freedom," Rabbi Tabick countered, "but to be part of the world you have to grow up, just like Adam and Eve."

Rabbi Tabick became Britain's first woman rabbi in 1975, a year before Julia Neuberger, who was Britain's first woman rabbi to have a congregation.

Cycling to work from Richmond - via Hell



Cycling nervously: our man in the saddle

IT HAS not been a good week for pedal power. Anthony Adams, 24, was fined under a 150-year-old law for cycling "furiously" through Cambridge and suddenly the urban cycling community is in the spotlight.

People who ride their bicycles through towns are passionate about cycling. So are many of those who have to share the road with them, for rather different reasons.

In the wake of the case of Mr Adams (who may go to jail if he continues to exercise in such a fashion), the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents warned that careless cycling was likely to become of increasing concern if efforts to cut the number of cars on the road resulted in more cyclists. The cycling lobby, meanwhile, wants more bicycles on the road.

Just how uneasy is the relationship between pedallers and other

road users becomes clear on getting into the saddle. From where I live in Richmond, southwest London, to *The Times* office in Wapping, East London, is about 12 miles. It is hard to imagine a more unpleasant experience than making the journey on a bicycle, which I did for the first time this week. The ride, which took two hours, was so miserable that my bicycle is still in the office, waiting until I can face the prospect of making the return trip.

The first three minutes of spinning across Richmond Green were blissful. The pleasure ended on the A316. I stopped and pulled off the road at some traffic lights to adjust my helmet. A policeman drew up on his motorbike, we exchanged pleasantries and I made a quip about my ordeal ahead. "I've seen

more than my fair share of bikes and people parting company with horrible results," he said grimly. "All sides are to blame. Sometimes cars, pedestrians, cyclists. But sadly the roads are just not made for the traffic and the most vulnerable get hit. Cyclists are the most vulnerable."

Cheering stuff. My route took me through the old, winding streets of Barnes where the traffic crawled bumper to bumper and there was barely room to stay on the road. This was after the rush hour, but, not for the last time, I hopped off onto the pavement. "You know you shouldn't be on the pavement," remonstrated one woman who was wheeling her baby son in his pushchair. I dismounted, chastened. "You know I was nearly hit

by a kid on a bike the other day. He came out of the line at traffic lights and cut over the crossing, clipped the pushchair." Hers was the politest reprimand I had all day.

By the time I crossed Putney Bridge I had been cut up several times by buses, lorries and taxis and was going at a cautious speed that was probably putting me in even greater danger. Zipping onto Cheyne Walk I clipped the wing mirror of a black, open-topped BMW. The owner was not understanding. "You ****! You shouldn't be on the road, people like you, **** cyclists!"

I replied in similar vernacular but, as a moped rider in front of me crunched into the bumper of a car, I secretly felt the man in the BMW was right: it was madness.

Particularly mad were the duo on racing bikes, clad in pink lycra, who overtook me as I was pulling around a parked car. The cycling lobby make great play of the lunacies of motorists but some cyclists - in their own minds competing with Chris Boardman - can be equally unthinking. The worst of the fanatic cyclists are often the macho cycle couriers. One raced past me on the approach to Vauxhall Bridge in a manner that could only be described as "furious".

Heading south of the river over Westminster Bridge in search of a quieter route I came across the opposite extreme. An outlandishly dressed trio on huge tricycles towing trailers wobbled ahead so slowly it was difficult, bringing up

Saddle up, page 45

Damian Whitworth discovers the untold perils of riding furiously on the highway

Salvation Army goes to war over rags riches

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

OXFAM and the Salvation Army are at war over sites for clothes recycling banks.

The Salvation Army is furious after being told that it will have to hand over 77 of its locations around Devon to the Third World charity.

Devon County Council asked the Salvation Army to move its recycling bins from the sites after Oxfam offered ten times more money when they were put out to tender.

The Salvation Army has accused Oxfam of "poaching", and says the move will lead to a major drop in its income from Devon, into which it pumps around £2.75million every year from national funds. It fears owners of private sites on which it also has clothes banks, such as supermarkets, may also come under pressure to take Oxfam banks instead of theirs.

Devon County Council district recycling committee has agreed a three-year contract with Oxfam at 77 sites, mainly at district council-operated car parks, in the first deal of its kind under the competitive tendering process.

Oxfam is believed to have agreed a £101 per ton fee for the contract, in stark contrast with the £8 per ton previously paid by the Salvation Army.

Salvation Army recycling co-ordinator Garth Ward has accused Oxfam of poaching sites which had been running successfully for six years in

Devon. He has written to all councillors in the country asking them to prevent his charity from being ordered off council-owned land.

He said money raised by the recycling banks helps fund facilities such as the Salvation Army hostel for the homeless in Devonport, Plymouth, which has recently undergone a £1 million refurbishment. "We initiated this recycling idea in 1991, and we helped the Department of the Environment conduct feasibility studies into the whole clothing recycling idea. I think most people think we have offered an exemplary service."

"I really think that most people see us as the natural choice for this type of operation. We are domestic, and not global - although we do send clothes abroad. To me it would make more sense for us to work together rather than them poaching our sites."

But Oxfam spokeswoman Anne Bissell denied the charity was poaching. "Everyone was invited to tender for the 77 sites and we were successful," she said.

Councillor Marguerite Shapland, chairman of the joint recycling committee, said: "The Salvation Army, with whom we have had an informal agreement for a number of years, was invited to tender for this contract and I understand its disappointment."

Treasury rules 'hold back jail industries'

JAIL workshops and farms should be freed from archaic Treasury rules and regulations that hold back attempts to generate income, the Chief Inspector of Prisons said yesterday.

Sir David Ramsbotham said prison industries should be allowed to run as profit-making enterprises rather than paying back any income they earn into central funds. He said that at Ford Open Prison in West

Sussex, which has workshops making products from security gates to demonstration dummies for the Fire Services, work opportunities had been lost because of the rules.

Allowing a more entrepreneurial approach would encourage prison governors and staff to develop more imaginative work opportunities and do much to alleviate unemployment in prisons.

THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM An evening with Stephen Fry

STEPHEN Fry, whose public face is international, known as the presenter of *The Times/Dillons Forum*, on Tuesday October 7. He will be in conversation with Nicholas Wapshot. The discussion will cover his days at boarding school, the beatings he survived, the love he felt, the misery he suffered, his time in prison and his subsequent career as a writer and actor, which marks the publication of his autobiography, *Mouth is my Washpot* (Hutchinson, £16.99) will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 (concessions £7.50), which includes £2 off the price of the book. There will also be an opportunity for the audience to ask questions. Subject to demand this event will be interpreted in sign language.

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An evening with Stephen Fry

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The people of North Korea are in desperate need. The Red Cross is organising emergency supplies of food to vulnerable groups and medical equipment to the failing health sector.

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An artist's impression of how Piers Gough's bridge of steel, earth and trees will look. The structure will unite the north side of Mile End Park above left, and its south side

you will go under a whole line of trees growing out of the bridge," Gough said yesterday. Under the bridge there are plans to install shops and cafés.

The architect, who lives locally, was mildly surprised to have got away with it. "There is a great fear of all developers in London: people will oppose almost anything. It's a British trait: 'We don't like the future: we are against it and we are against development,'" Gough said.

Not everyone is happy, of course, and the unhappiest of all is Guardian Angels Roman Catholic primary school, which fears it will be engulfed by the bridge right alongside its 100-year-old premises. John Holland, the school governor who has led objections to the bridge, said: "The school will be isolated from the rest of the park. Our only entrance will be by a narrow alley, causing worry for the safety of more than 200 pupils and staff, and with a 7m bridge abutment right alongside us we will be in permanent shadow: psychological if not

actual." The school also fears that the bridge, like many other urban bridges, will become a magnet for drunks, drug-takers and others particularly undesirable outside a school gate.

Other parts of the scheme have been more widely welcomed. Mile End Park runs alongside the last stretch of the Grand Union canal on its way to the Thames at Limehouse Basin, and is a prime site for recreation. But a park can no longer be just a park: it has to be an outdoor leisure centre. In matters of *res in urbe*, man must control nature.

The £24 million being lavished on the park will pay for, among other amenities, a man-made mountain to provide views of Limehouse, three wind generators, a running track, art pavilion and an amphitheatre. The bridge should be completed time for Tower Hamlets' Hogmanay party in the park to welcome the new millennium, and will doubtless shelter those too wobbly and green to make it home afterwards.

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US finds Fat Ladies hard to swallow

FROM BRONWEN MADDIX IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA has greeted the arrival of *Two Fat Ladies* with a polite, nervous smile of meone offered an unidentified, pungent, forkful of a reign cuisine. While some have hailed the but of Jennifer Paterson and actress Dickson Wright on cable television's *Food Network* as the birth of two new stars, others have reacted if a wormy apple has been dried into Eden. That is partly because the two, in their tour of the big-city talk shows, have portrayed themselves as missionaries of flavour, accusing nerican prudishness of taking the taste out of food and fun out of meals. On the question of food, at



Paterson: her smoking on camera horrifies

A drawing from *The Cat in the Hat*, by Dr Seuss

Fruity English tastes the best

There is no escape from them. Their faces are everywhere, and their accents, too. Plummy-voiced, London demotic, rasping Glaswegian, gritty Lancashire, singsong Welsh. Even the odd Ulsterman sounding like John Cole.

British journalists have never been in heavier demand as television "talking heads". My telephone rings at least

thrice a day, with requests from Fox, NBC, ABC, CBS — in fact, from every bit of the TV alphabet soup except, alas, MTV — to talk about Princess Diana (still), devolution, and now, floggings for nurses in Saudi Arabia.

I have resisted their blandishments so far. But my more dashing colleagues, more silver-tongued than I,

Leading article, page 23

Vision, page 13

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Cheltenham & Gloucester plc, Barnet Way, Gloucester GL4 3RL. Typical example: Assumes a fixed rate of 7.69% for the full term of the mortgage as reflected in the total amount payable and APR, an interest only mortgage of £50,000 secured over 25 years and a purchase price of £75,000, 550 monthly payments of £21,538 net of tax. The net monthly payment assumes tax relief at the rate of 15% on the first £30,000 of the mortgage. The original £50,000 must be paid at the end of the mortgage term. Total amount payable £146,814.73 including our reservation charge of £299 and closing redemption administration charge of £50. APR is 8.0% (variable). There is a £299 non-refundable reservation fee which you must pay at the time you apply for our mortgage to reserve the fixed-rate funds. Early Redemption Charge: if you repay the loan in full or in part, or ask to switch to another C&G mortgage offer within the first year, you will have to pay an early redemption charge. The charge will be a percentage of the original loan amount as follows: Year 1-5%: Year 2-7%: Year 3-9%: Year 4-12%: Year 5-15%. If you repay only part of the loan, the charge will be worked out proportionately. This fixed-rate mortgage can be arranged on an interest only or repayment basis and requires a minimum personal deposit of 20%. At the end of the fixed-rate period the interest rate charged will be our standard variable mortgage rate. The equivalent monthly payment at our standard variable rate, currently 8.45%, would be £320.39. For full details of all our current mortgages and how they work, please ask for our booklet 'Our Mortgages - the right choice'. You must be at least 18 years old to apply for a loan. Please ask us if you would like a written quotation. Before agreeing a loan we will want to satisfy ourselves about the suitability of your application. We will include assessing your ability to meet the repayments and, normally, valuing the property. An loan will require security in the form of a mortgage over the property. Cheltenham & Gloucester acts as an introducer only to the bank Marketing Group which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for life assurance, pensions and unit trust business.

Characters cast for word-play wizard

TUNKU VARADARAJAN'S
NEW YORK



Liberty: big let-down

Only one man, Dr Seuss, could have composed these lively, nonsensical, compulsively rhythmic words. This rascally doggerel on which generations of English-speaking children have nourished their earliest imagination. The words are from *Fox in Socks*, one of 47 children's books written and illustrated by Dr Seuss (real name: Theodor Geisel), hundreds of millions of which have been sold around the world, reaping a fat fortune for Random House, his New York publishers. He died in 1991.

Now the trustees of the public library in Springfield, Massachusetts, Dr Seuss's home town, have unveiled plans for a memorial to him, consisting of a garden full of bronze statues depicting his weird and wacky characters. There will be the Cat in the Hat (and his sidekicks, Thing One and Thing Two), Yertle the Turtle, Sam-I-Am (from *Green Eggs and Ham*), Horton the elephant, the Grinch, the Yook and the Zook. Oh yes, and the Nerd too — Dr Seuss invented the word. The

garden, to be completed by 1999, will cost \$6 million (£3.7 million), and the sculptures will be made by Lark Grey Diamond-Cates, his step-daughter. Dr Seuss never had children, once saying famously to an audience of parents: "You make 'em. I amuse 'em".

The sculpture says: "I want people to leave the memorial taking Dr Seuss's work a little more seriously. I think a lot of people take Dr Seuss lightly."



Geisel: cult following

A WEE snippet from my spies at the United Nations. Robin Cook, who did not endeavor himself to journalists in New York by snapping at those who asked him awkward questions, seems to have spent most of his time at the General Assembly working on his speech for next week's Labour Party conference.

The Foreign Secretary's labours, however, were interrupted rudely by news from Saudi Arabia. A source said: "The whole thing was jolly inconvenient. All Mr Cook really wanted to do was to polish his oration for Brighton. And then this damned nurse business happened at just the wrong time!"

Mr Cook is normally even-tempered, but these interruptions made him rather crabby: I think you might say he is rather nervous about his speech.

GIVE me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, and I shall make them feel infinitely worse.

This in effect is the message put about by the Statue of Liberty today, now surely the grottiest tourist site in New York. Visitors to the verdigris-complexioned lady are packed into grimy boats in Manhattan and then shipped to Liberty Island.

There, they sometimes have to wait for up to three hours just to reach the entrance. They are harassed constantly by vendors, commercial photographers and pushy superintendents.

There are few lavatories, so 22 flights of stairs (and back) must often be negotiated with a fullish bladder.

The signs are misleading and people get lost. And once on top, on the statue's crown, they get barely a minute's glimpse of New York before they are hustled back down again. I now give visitors some simple advice: don't go to the Statue of Liberty. Have a few marinis instead, and then look at the postcard.

Winnie Mandela to give open evidence at truth commission

FROM SAM KILEY IN JOHANNESBURG

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela yesterday won the right to testify in public at South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission to try to clear her name. She has been implicated in 18 cases of rights abuses, including eight murders, by amnesty applicants.

Mrs Mandela, 63 yesterday, appeared before the commission for the first time in secret hearings throughout the day. She was questioned about allegations made by amnesty applicants that she ordered assaults, kidnappings and murders during a township reign of terror in the 1980s.

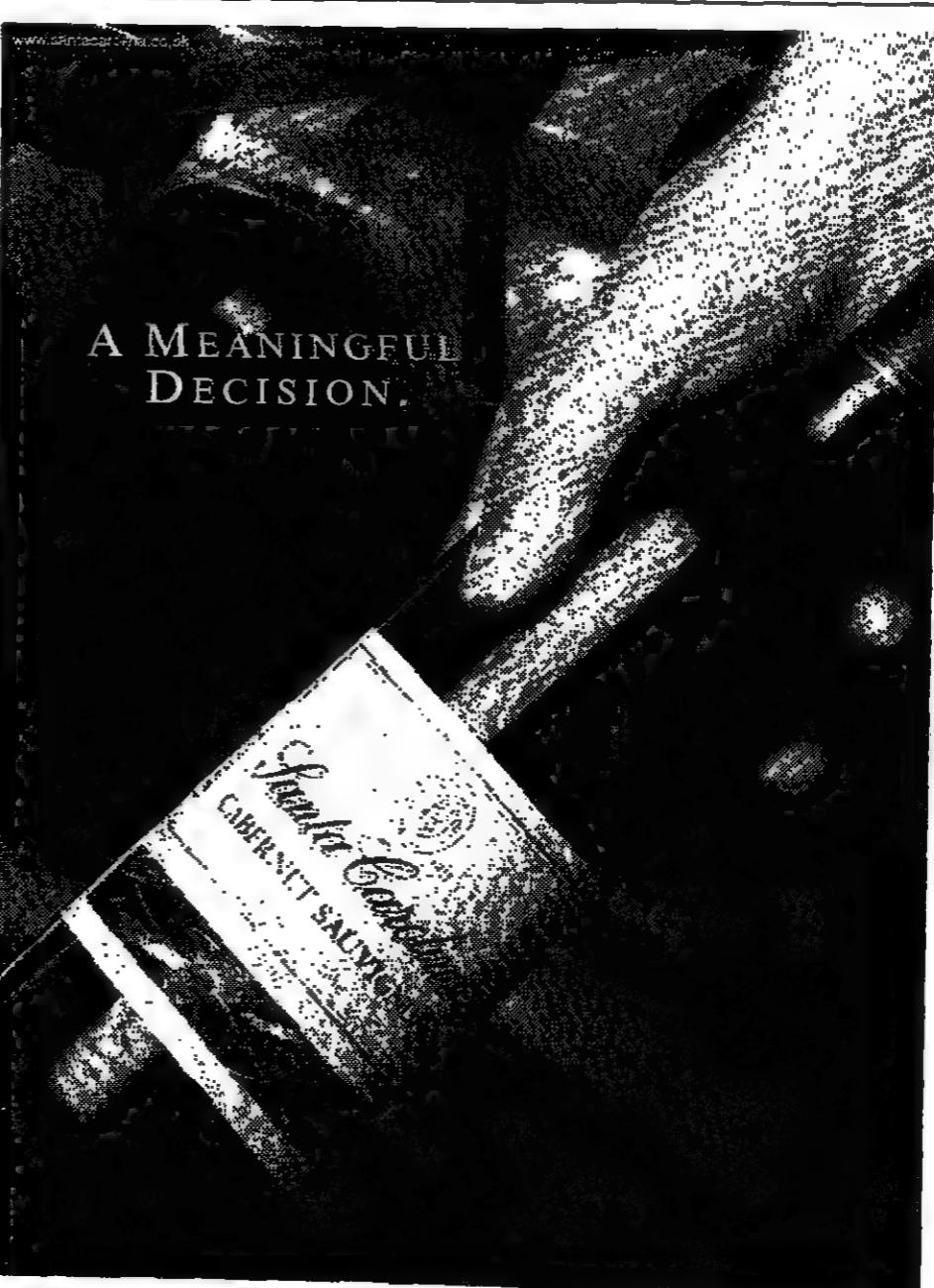
The hearings had been held in camera to protect other

witnesses, who say they fear for their lives after agreeing to give evidence allegedly damaging to the former wife of President Mandela. She is the most senior official of the African National Congress (ANC) to appear before the commission, hearing amnesty applications for apartheid-era crimes.

But when she takes the stand publicly on November 1, she may cause panic among senior ANC members already rocked by allegations that they connived in covering up her part in the killing of Stompie Moeketsi Selpe in 1987 and other human rights abuses.

The open hearing could not come at a worse time for the

Leading article, page 23



Velvet reds. Golden whites.
Discover the true meaning of Santa Carolina from Chile.

Santa Carolina
WINES WITH MEANING

Kong bans
in class

hard to get
religion Act

isolated case

for pupils

Plane crash in Indonesia haze leaves 234 dead

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN JAKARTA

ALL 234 people on board an Indonesian airliner were killed when it crashed in thick haze in a ravine in Sumatra yesterday afternoon. It is unclear whether the blanket of smog, which has virtually turned day into night over much of South-East Asia, had a direct bearing on the accident. Harry Sumatra Dhanurit, the Transport Minister, said visibility at the crash site was poor at less than 400 yards.

A source at Garuda, the national airline, said: "It could well have been the haze but we don't know yet." The accident, involving an Airbus A300, is the worst aviation disaster in Indonesia.

Airports in the country and the region have been forced to close in recent weeks because of the haze caused by the clearing and burning of tracts of land in southern Sumatra and Kalimantan, the Indonesian part of Borneo. Yesterday's accident came as the Government warned plantation owners and their contract staff to bring the fires under control.

The Airbus crashed into a ravine near a heavily forested mountain 30 miles from Medan, its destination in north-

ern Sumatra, shortly after 1.30pm local time. Air traffic controllers lost contact four minutes before it was due to land. The airport was closed later. Among the dead were eight foreigners, two Americans and six Japanese.

Sergeant Ari Suriono, of the north Sumatra police, said: "Witnesses told me the plane was flying very low and hit a tree. It then crashed to the ground and caught fire." He said visibility in the area had worsened during the day.

A source at Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta International Airport said she heard that the aeroplane, Flight GA152, crashed because it had run out of fuel. "I heard that the pilot could not find the runway in the haze and, while circling, ran out of petrol."

As the haze continued to pollute the region, Malaysia yesterday cancelled flights to five of its airports, including the resorts of Penang and Pulau Langkawi. Reports also said that tourists have started cancelling visits to South-East Asia.

Relief firefighters dispatched by Malaysia to help to fight the inferno in Sumatra are not expected to see any action until next week. Japan,

A Garuda Airbus, similar to the one that crashed

ATLANTIS MISSION

ATL

The two faces of Cherie

Mrs Blair and Ms Booth share the roles of mother, barrister, First Lady and charity worker. Michael Gove separates woman and superwoman

Since the election, Tony Blair's wife has had to be two people at once. Cherie Booth the QC, and Cherie Blair, First Lady to an increasingly presidential Prime Minister. Over the past seven days she has been swapping personas, from Booth to Blair, as often as the models at London Fashion Week have switched outfits.

Last Sunday she became godmother to the youngest child of her Islington friends Stephen and Felicity Moseley Williams, spending most of the afternoon at the christening. On Monday, Mrs Blair launched a breast cancer campaign from No 10. The following day, Ms Booth was in the headlines for calling on the Bar to be less elitist, while Wednesday saw her winning a case for a woman with dyslexia. Yesterday Mrs Blair presented a Grandparent of the Year award. And today Ms Booth is chairing the annual Bar conference. Tomorrow, however, Cherie becomes Mrs Tony Blair for the whole week — at the Labour Party conference in Brighton. An intelligent and articulate woman will be turned into a mute and adoring wife.

The conference is one of the worst weeks of the year for her. A woman who lives on her eloquence and charms with her wit must observe a convert silence. Commentators denied the chance to discuss her views, instead dissect her clothes, her hairstyle, her make-up — and, most of all, her body language, which some interpret as pained. It cannot be easy.

"Party conference is not number one in her list of favourite occupations," a friend says. "But she just puts on a different hat and smiles and gets on with it. She's a great get-on-her."

Since the election, that is precisely what Ms Booth has had to do. There were those who doubted her ability to continue at the Bar after Labour won power. They feared for her safety, they worried about conflicts of interest. Some simply disapproved of a Prime Minister's wife having a career. To prove them wrong, she has just got on with it, ploughing through attendant reporters and photographers to argue her case.

But although she keeps her arguments for court her continuing career has become a statement in itself. A poll of sixth-form girls put her top of their list of "superwoman" role models. It is a term much abused, but for this successful barrister the wig may fit.

The balancing act, however, is never easy. Within 24 hours of May 1, while Mr Blair was dispensing great offices of state, Cherie was learning to cope with living above the office. It was more than just another upheaval. Managing the move from Islington, with the family's taste in furnishings under scrutiny, was hardly the ideal way to wind down after six weeks of electioneering.

Downing Street is not exactly a cosy family home. The flat above No 11 is big enough but still fairly institutional. The move has not been without its political complications. Wrangles over rooms with next-door neighbour Gordon Brown have, according to insiders, strained relations between Mr Blair's wife and his Chancellor. But Chequers, the Prime Minister's country retreat, is a sanctuary for the family, where they can properly relax. Weekends are cherished, for while maintaining a private life was hard enough in Opposition, it has proved almost impossible in Government.

Privacy is something that the Blairs have come to value. The Prime Minister is protective of his wife, but are ferociously protective of their three children. Cherie, herself the daughter of a famous father (the actor Tony Booth) knows the dangers of growing up in the flashgun's glare.

They try to lead as much of a family life as possible in the circumstances. The Prime Minister aims to go upstairs from his office at about 7pm to see the children. Cherie is often not back until later. In the mornings, the Prime Minister can no longer drop off the children at the tube as he used

to, so Cherie pays for them to be driven to school. Relatives and a nanny help to share the childcare burden. As well as continuing her legal practice, Cherie has managed to fit in charity work, engagements with her husband and responsibility for the running of the household. Friends joke that she is as likely to pull a packet of pasta out of her briefcase as an affidavit. One says: "She's unflappable — that's her real strength. She has enormous stamina." Steely robustness was demonstrated by her return to the courtroom just days after her daughter was delivered by Caesarean section.

Being the wife of the Prime Minister calls for psychological as well as physical stamina. You cannot open your door to a delivery man in a nightdress. You cannot go to the supermarket without being photographed and having your choice of chunky knit analysed. Worst of all, you cannot assert your intelligence without people assuming that you want to run the country. Or already do. Those determined to make Mrs Blair the Modernisers' Messalina have tried to suggest she is a home-grown Hillary

Clinton. But however justified suspicions may be about who *really* wears the chin in the White House, the parallels do not hold.

Both Hillary and Cherie are lawyers with progressive husbands who like soft rock. But then so are half the women in Islington and many of the wives in Washington. The similarities between the two end there. When Bill Clinton ran for office, he boasted that voters would get "two for the price of one". He allowed his wife to help to choose his Government and he then put her in it with responsibility for reforming healthcare. It was a disaster and one the Blairs have no intention of repeating.

Cherie did once have political ambitions of her own and stood unsuccessfully for Thame North in 1983. But she and her husband had a pact: if one got into Parliament, the other would stay at the Bar to support the family. Once he won Sedgefield, she disengaged from active politics and returned to law. She has



Party duties at the last Labour conference: for a week each year, the highly articulate lawyer is turned into a mute wife

is talking about the law. But, if she were to give other interviews, her words would run the risk of being distorted and she would lose any right she still has not to be treated as a public figure.

However uncontroversial the issues she embroils, there is always the danger that she will make a "gaffe" that will remain on the cutting files for ever. For a woman who rose by eloquence and intelligence

an obvious move after years as a senior barrister. The trouble is that legal terms are fixed, and judges have to be available for sittings all term. They cannot plead for time off to attend a G7 economic summit or to fit in some devolution campaigning.

Even if the Lord Chancellor were to make an exception, that could give rise to charges of nepotism. The man who would appoint Cherie to such a position and give her time off is her old pupil-master, her husband's mentor and the couple's close friend, Lord Irvine of Lairg.

Her current legal practice is somewhat more flexible. Most of her cases are pre-planned and she can, on the whole, work them around her husband's diary. There was concern initially that some of her clients would be deterred by the publicity she attracted, but she is still in demand. Her main problem has been the manner in which critics have wilfully misunderstood the Bar's "cab-rank" principle. Barristers have to accept whatever case they are offered. Ms Booth had to endure criticism from the Left when she acted against poll-tax defaulters and sniping from the Right when she represented a lesbian litigant in Brussels. In both cases she was acting as counsel must, a professional advocate for the arguments, irrespective of personal feeling.

For an intelligent woman, however, there are ironies in her position. When she had political ambitions, they must surely have been to be First Lord of the Treasury, not First Lady. Academically and at the Bar, she has achieved everything possible: four "A" grades at A level, top First in her year, top of her Bar exams, and appointed one of the country's youngest QCs at her first attempt.

Yet still she is outshone by her husband. As she once remarked, "I started life as the daughter of someone. Now I am the wife of someone."

If she were almost anyone else's wife, she might be the star of the couple. It is a tribute to her that she has handled her position with poise. At the end of a week in which commentators such as Francis Fukuyama have marshalled formidable arguments questioning whether women can have it all, Cherie Booth is an example to all those who believe that they should at least be allowed to try.



The acceptable public role: a charity event last week

it has become dangerous to demonstrate too much evidence of either.

In court, on the other hand, she is in her element. As a barrister, she prefers cool reason to verbal pyrotechnics. When she occasionally sits on the bench as an assistant recorder, observers say she deploys a sympathetic manner, taking care to put witnesses at their ease.

Because of her duties as Mrs Blair, though, Cherie may find that her next step on the legal ladder is barred to her. She had an ambition to be a judge.



The hardworking QC in her chambers



Celebrating with a successful client



As the patron of Breast Cancer Care

REWARDING TIMES

PLAY PORTFOLIO £200,000 TO BE WON

£2,000 TO BE WON TODAY — TURN TO THE EQUITY PRICES, PAGE 26

Start playing new Portfolio, an exciting opportunity to play the stock market without getting your fingers burnt. You can win £2,000 a day six days a week in

The Times, and you can play every Sunday in *The Sunday Times* to win £5,000. Better still, there is a £10,000 weekly prize, if you play Portfolio in both papers, seven days a week. Playing Portfolio is easy and fun. Every week companies' share prices go up and down in the real world of the Stock Exchange. So you can experience the excitement of the stock market swings, but without the risks.

Yesterday's winners are: Mr R Daines of Arbroath, Fife and Mrs R Sampson of Norwich, Norfolk. They both win £2,000.

HOW TO PLAY

- On each individual Portfolio gamecard there are eight numbers printed in a grid. (See example, above)
- These numbers represent eight out of 44 companies listed on the Portfolio panel (see Equity Prices, page 26).
- The eight are your "Portfolio of Shares".
- The 44 companies are taken from the hundreds whose shares are listed on *The Times* Equity Prices page every day.
- Simply check the share price movement (+ or -) of your eight Portfolio shares.
- When you have checked all eight share movements and entered them on to the Portfolio panel on page 26 add them up to obtain your plus or minus total.

THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES

Portfolio

1725009	10	14	15	29
	35	37	38	39

When adding up your total, ignore fractions, ie enter 16 1/2 as 16 (the symbol ... equals no change).

If your overall total exactly matches the points required in the Daily Portfolio Dividend, printed on the Portfolio panel on page 26, you win or share the £2,000 daily prize.

WEEKLY ACCUMULATOR GAME

The weekly accumulator game started in *The Times* on Monday. To play the weekly accumulator game simply add up your daily Portfolio totals, Monday to Sunday. If your accumulator total matches exactly the weekly portfolio accumulator dividend, published in the *The Sunday Times*, you win or share the weekly accumulator prize of £10,000.

HOW TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE

Claims for *The Times* daily Portfolio dividend must be made to the Portfolio claims line on 0171-481 3388 between 9.30am and 3pm today. No claims can be accepted outside these hours and you must claim your prize the day you win. You must have your card with you when you claim. Other persons can claim on your behalf provided they have your card. No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the stated hours. In the event of more than one valid claim for any prize, that prize will be divided equally among the winners.

You can get a Portfolio card by calling the card request line on 0171-481 3355 during normal office hours. Cards are also available at selected newsagents.



Fugitive killer held in France



From left: Holly Maddux, whose body was found in Einhorn's flat in 1977; Einhorn with a Philadelphia sheriff's deputy during his 1979 trial; Annika Flodin, his Swedish wife; and Einhorn is led into a Bordeaux appeals court this week

Ben Macintyre unfolds the saga of an American hippie-era guru who is fighting extradition

Ira Einhorn, celebrated former hippie guru and convicted murderer, was returned to a Bordeaux jail cell this week as French and US lawyers wrangled over whether he should be sent back to Philadelphia to serve a life sentence after 16 years as a fugitive in Britain, Ireland, Scandinavia and France.

Since his arrest, the man who emerged in the 1960s as a leader of the drug-saturated counter-culture has entered an unreal legal limbo. Washington has formally demanded his extradition, but under French law anyone tried in absentia has the right to a retrial. Rarely has such a retrial been granted in America.

On Wednesday, the Bordeaux court of appeals that has pondered the case for the past three months postponed its decision and requested more information from the United States. Sitting in court, the bearded Einhorn, 57, who has successfully evaded American justice for so long, smiled broadly.

Last June a lucky break led the FBI to a converted mill in Champagne-Mouton in the Charente and the discovery of the real identity of Eugene Mallon, self-styled English novelist and member of the local bridge club.

Thirty years ago Einhorn was one of the most prominent and weirdest figures in the growing hippie movement. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Einhorn experimented with LSD in the 1950s, opposed the Vietnam War and briefly taught English literature at Harvard, soon attracting a mass following of his charisma and love of publicity.

Einhorn called himself "planetary enzyme" and wowed his acolytes with theories about "psychic weaponry", the paranormal, ecology and CIA conspiracies. In 1972 Einhorn began a stormy relationship with Holly Maddux, 25, a mildly unbalanced Texan hippie. Late in 1977 Maddux disappeared. Eighteen months later Einhorn's neighbours in Philadelphia reported a stench. On March 28, 1979, police raided his flat and found the woman's decomposing body locked in a trunk.

Einhorn was arrested, claiming to be the victim of a CIA plot. His admirers rallied round and lawyers had no difficulty raising the \$40,000

(£25,000) bail. Two days before his murder trial was due to start, Einhorn slipped out of Philadelphia.

Using false names, Einhorn headed first to London and then to Dublin, where he joined the poetic circle round Seamus Heaney at Trinity College. In 1987 the great Irish poet reportedly told police he had known Einhorn, then calling himself Ben Moore. Before the Irish police could pounce, Einhorn had moved on again: back to England, to the Balearic Islands, Switzerland and back to London. It was in London in 1988 that Einhorn met Annika Flodin, a Swedish fashion designer 11 years his junior. They settled briefly in Stockholm.

Back in Philadelphia a district attorney, Richard Di Benedetto, was slowly picking up Einhorn's trail. In 1988 the Swedish police closed in on Flodin's apartment, only to find it empty. In 1992, with a fake identity card, Einhorn became Eugene Mallon and Flodin became his wife Annie.

The following year a Philadelphia jury found Einhorn guilty of murder in absentia and sentenced him to life imprisonment. Maddux had been killed by repeated blows to the head.

By 1993, Eugene and Annie Mallon were living quietly and comfortably in the Guitry mill at Champagne-Mouton. Annie was liked in the village, but the author, who said he was born in England and raised in California, was more reserved, speaking poor French and hardly socialising.

The slip that led to his arrest, as in all the best detective stories, was absurdly banal. Annie Mallon, née Flodin, applied to convert her Swedish driving licence into a French permit; the French authorities requested documents from their Swedish counterparts; the Swedes told Di Benedetto Flodin had resurfaced, and on June 13 a posse of gendarmes led Einhorn away from Guitry mill in handcuffs as astonished neighbours watched.

The appeals court will issue a verdict on November 4, but Einhorn's lawyer, citing European human rights law, believes the Bordeaux judges will never permit the extradition without a retrial.

THE SUNDAY TIMES



BILL BRYSON
Read the hilarious new book from the bestselling author Bill Bryson, exclusively in The Sunday Times



WILD CHILD
Who are the next Brit designers to scale the couture heights?



STEPHEN FRY
"We are police officers, sir. We have reason to believe that you may be using a stolen credit card..."

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Is Hague a one-night stand-in?

Party reform will be the real test for the Tory leader, says Tim Farnes

Last month Labour marked 100 days in office. It did so in a carnival atmosphere. William Hague endured a rather less rapturous anniversary. One can only hope that Fifion has a better honeymoon.

The headlines of this September may disappear as quickly as they surfaced. The issue that will really shape Mr Hague's leadership over the next 100 weeks is the one he placed at the centre of his leadership bid: internal party reform. If this fails to impress either Tory activists or the wider electorate, his tenure will seem uncertain.

The Hague project embraces the entire structure of the Conservative Party but two key questions will largely define the enterprise: the method by which the Conservative leader is selected and the means by which parliamentary candidates are chosen. These matters will dominate the minds of activists when the Conservative Party conference opens in Blackpool.

In both cases a balance has to be struck between two sets of interests. This is especially stark in the case of leadership selection. The Conservatives have historically been the defenders of parliamentary sovereignty. This does not fit easily with the notion of mass party democracy. If the general election had not eliminated the Tories from Scotland and Wales or decimated them in urban England, it is unlikely that such would have been contemplated. Nonetheless, the issue now is how change should be implemented.

Numerous proposals have been floated. These centre on some sort of electoral college with (varying) proportions allocated to MPs and ordinary members. This device seeks to blend two features: the specialist knowledge that only MPs can have, and the need for widespread appeal. These schemes all contain a common flaw. Whatever the percentages adopted, the possibility would exist of the two components coming to alternative outcomes. That would create a crisis for whoever won the election. Labour has had the fortune to avoid this disaster so far. The Tories should not push their luck.

A better blend can be borrowed from the United States. In several states, a small number of party officials produce a shortlist of candidates who are then placed before the wider public. In effect, this is what happens in Conservative parliamentary candidate selection at present. Tory MPs should hold two preliminary leadership ballots. The first should eliminate all the contenders bar three. The second should permit any aspirant who registered more than 25 per cent support among parliamentarians to enter a decisive contest conducted on the

principle of one member, one vote. Such a formula would allow discretion and democracy their due role and display deference to Tory tradition. It should also preclude the need to submit the Conservative Party Chairman to mass franchise. That exercise is unnecessary for a post of this nature and a virtual invitation to internal division.

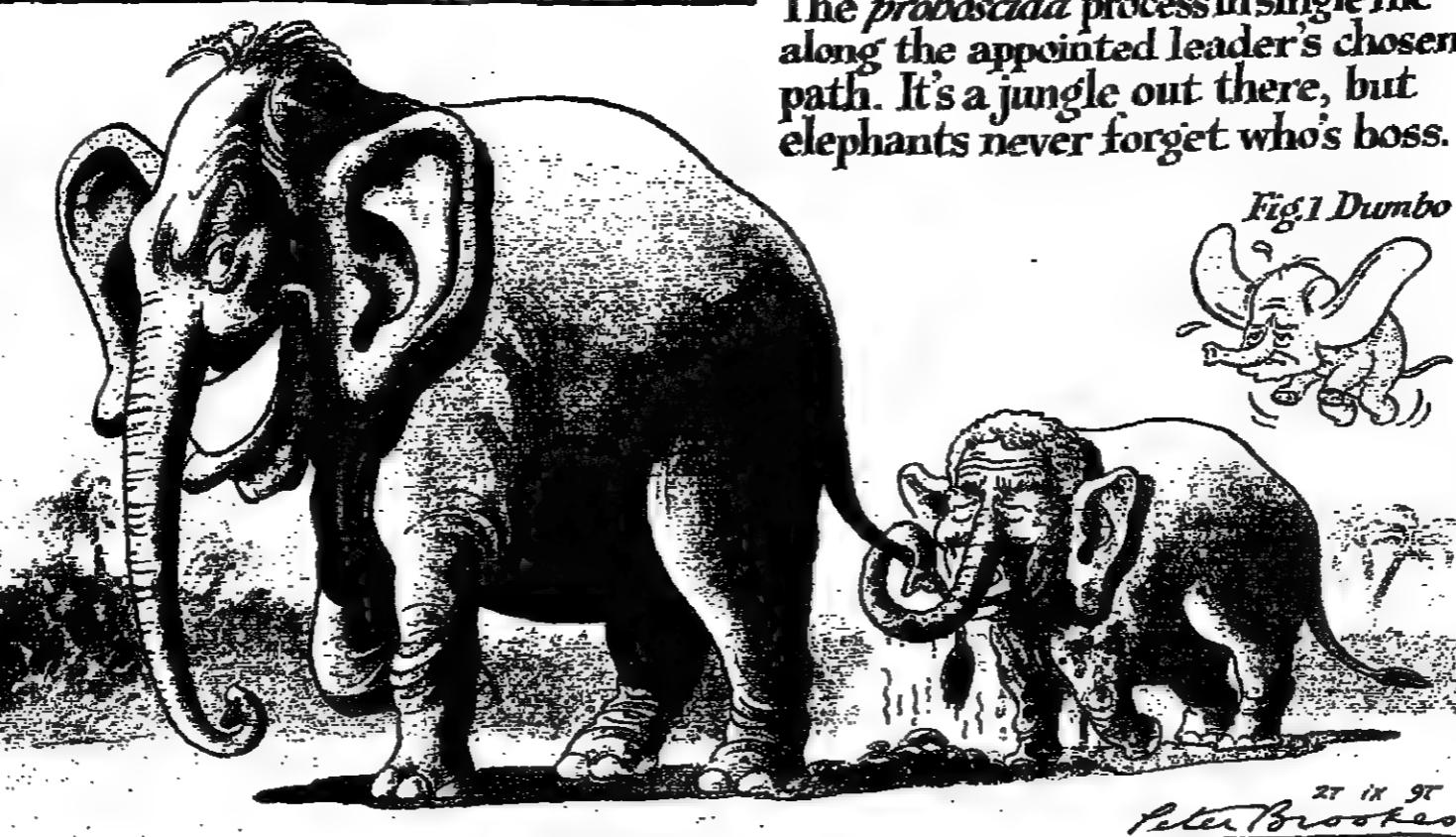
Local party selection needs far less dramatic surgery. The "Tatton factor" has been much overblown by those who would like to reduce the autonomy of local associations. It was the Conservative Party centrally which first put Neil Hamilton on its candidates list, and the Tories in Westminster who refused to remove the whip from him. In the absence of such action, the choice made by Cheshire Conservatives was perfectly proper. There is a case for allowing Central Office a limited power of veto, in exceptional circumstances, over those who would carry the party colours. If the approved list was more tightly constructed and submitted to continuous appraisal, such remedial action from the centre should be rare indeed.

The Tories should, though, be rather more concerned about the "Tatton factor". The disparity in female representation at Westminster between the two major parties is stark and of more than mere symbolic importance. Cultural and institutional factors within the Conservative Party are responsible for this contrast. The party as a whole needs to display the will to address this imbalance. All-women shortlists would be wrong in principle and legally contestable in practice. But the Conservatives had all-male shortlists in more than 80 per cent of selection contests before the last election. In all constituencies where the party exceeds a certain size, the association meeting should choose between a shortlist of three or four contenders — with both sexes represented.

The means by which the Conservative Party is redesigned will be taken as a wider reflection on Mr Hague's leadership qualities. If the reforms he promotes are taken as unduly timid, or poorly designed in the face of adverse comment, then comparisons with his catastrophic predecessor will follow. The crisis at the centre of the Conservative Party that started seven years ago when Michael Heseltine challenged Margaret Thatcher will continue. There is little prospect of recovery for the Right if that persists. The Conservatives have always opposed revolutionary change but quietly adopted it for their own affairs when the occasion appeared sufficiently urgent. Mr Hague will need to be bold if these 100 days are not to prove a prelude to his Waterloo.

The Tories have always opposed radical change

NATURE NOTES



The Elephant March

The proboscida process in single file along the appointed leader's chosen path. It's a jungle out there, but elephants never forget who's boss.

Fig 1 Dumbo

Who are the barbarians?

Never mind Saudi Arabia. Our penal system is an international disgrace

cultures abandoned lynch law and mob rule is that they preferred their law and order mediated by justice. Mobs regress. They connect a belief in a golden age of order with a more ruthless regime of punishment, a connection for which there is no shred of evidence. Britain has always ranked far down the league in penal reform. As long ago as 1215, Pope Innocent III sought to stamp out the northerners' obsession with trial by ordeal, claiming that it was ridiculous to invoke scorched flesh as a sign of guilt or innocence. (He instituted more scientific judicial cross-examination, namely the thumb-screw and the rack.) Britain was still flogging

men for homossexuality between the wars. The preferred method of execution, hanging by a rope, was seen abroad as barbaric compared with decapitation or firing squad. The last British prison whipping was in 1967, but Britons could legally beat children in school until 1986.

Most Britons are inured to the cruelty of a penal tradition still obsessed with retribution. They are penologically illiterate. Most would read about the 17-year-old, shrug and say she deserved it. She was a persistent offender. Her father was in prison and her mother a convict. The judge went out of his way to remark that being deprived of the baby was seen by him as part of the punishment. He said: "You deserve a real punishment to try to break once and for all this habit of stealing other people's property... only a custodial sentence can be justified."

Set aside the crude lashing of

maternity to the wheel of societal revenge, set aside any trauma to the baby, this is a disproportionate response to stealing four shirts. It is the emotional equivalent of chopping off a hand. It is medieval. As for whether separation from a new baby is more or less likely to cure a case of kleptomania, even for just two weeks in this case, I would rather have a professional than a judicial view.

One of the reasons why civilised

peoples. The selling of anti-personnel equipment to Indonesia was a blot on the last Tory Government which Mr Cook has commendably reversed. But Britain is not well-placed to criticise the penal practices of other states. In the same week that his colleague was protesting the fate of the Saudi nurses, the Home Secretary was proposing to incarcerate parents for the misdeeds of their children. He was filling a revival of a prison hulk off Portland Bill. He showed no inclination to cut the prison population or to stop squandering money on new jails. Indeed, he is proposing a "war on drugs", the sole consequence of which will be to expose ever more young people to what is now the nation's hottest drugs market, the Home Office prison service.

I have some sympathy with the thesis that the next global conflict will be between the West and Muslim fanaticism. Recent outrages from Algeria and Egypt through Iraq and Afghanistan, even as far as Indonesia, suggest an unstable region with immense capacity for international mischief. The fate of those who risk their careers and even lives in the primitive politics of Saudi Arabia should concern us. But that concern can only be effective if delicately articulated. Rubbishing Arab dictators may make good copy at home. But Saddam Hussein, Colonel Gaddafi, President Assad and the ayatollahs all testify that Western abuse is a heady elixir of power.

The new British Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, fell into the abuse trap by initially attacking the sentence as "unacceptable", a favourite Foreign Office word for what Britain no longer has any option but to accept. The Saudi verdicts were a gift to every chauvinist rabble-rouser. But xenophobic outrage — not, I note, directed at the Australian brother and accessory to the outrage — does not free prisoners. Most observers were convinced from the start that, should the nurses be found guilty, they would somehow be freed in the end. The only sure thing was that anti-Arab abuse would make this harder rather than easier. By yesterday Mr Cook had calmed his words.

Britons view America differently from Saudi Arabia. The former's penchant for trying alive those who might (or might not) have committed murder is a minor blot on the transatlantic friendship, best not mentioned in polite company. It is even mildly glamorous, a sign that the Wild West spirit is not dead. Besides, American justice is America's business. That is why British embassy officials or tabloid reporters are

will ever honour her word."

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Luvvie trouble

GRUMPY dows at Newnham College, Cambridge, are thumbing through yellowing copies of their rulebook to see whether they can sack the actress Emma Thompson, whom they boldly made an honorary fellow a year ago.

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Tucking in

POOR underfed BBC toilers,

Gavin Esler, the reporter now r

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Among them was Anita Pallenberg, Mick Jagger's old friend. At the age of 51, she has resurfaced to undertake a fashion course at Central St Martins School of Art.

"My first collection might be ready for next season," she threatened. "My designs are offbeat — silver, black and powder blue."

"None the wiser, my attention drifted to the so-called

Dunkirk spirit in the desert
Giles Whittell on a very British record-breaker

It is easy to misunderstand Richard Noble. Stalking the Nevada desert in denim shorts with a black briefcase on the end of each arm and a ten-tonne titanium car streaking over the silt at more than 700 miles an hour, he is determined, you might think, to mastermind the first supersonic drive in history.

He is, but only incidentally. He swears there is a larger aim than sheer speed to his dusty endeavour, and it is one that may touch some raw nerves among those who have denied him support in the past. "It's all about beating the British system," he booms, squinting into the sun, when asked what makes him stay the dangerous course. One wonders if he is serious. He is British, after all. His dedicated team is British. Most of his sponsors are British. So, is he serious? "Absolutely," he says.

It is 14 years since this big, perplexing man set his own speed record at Black Rock. That achievement made him a hero in the local bars and put his first *Thrust* car in a Coventry motoring museum, but it somehow failed to mark him out as a safe bet for the major corporate backing on which his brand of adventure usually depends. He talks frequently, if obliquely, of a "bad experience" with the City, when, apparently, funding was withdrawn from a company he set up in the 1980s to build a new twin-engined aircraft. He later found he was not to be trusted with adequate sponsorship for his *Atlantic Sprint* Blue Riband challenge, nor for the *Thrust SSC* project after its first disappointing outing to Jordan last year.

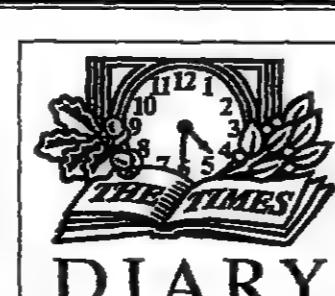
That mistrust is now mutual and deep. Indeed, at times it threatened to overwhelm his elation at leading a successful new land speed record bid on Thursday. "I see this up as one of the most exciting global corporate promotions of all time. It's working, but still the corporates don't come, and still we're on a knife-edge financially," he said. "I'm sick of begging."

In the rush of vindication, a leader is entitled to vent anger as well as relief. But it is worth asking which corporate promotions manager would have been wise to pour his shareholders' money into a project fraught with technical difficulties and intended to propel one man from nowhere to precisely nowhere at appalling risk to himself and argueable benefit to others.

It is in the nature of risk-taking, especially on the technological frontiers of the late 20th century, to involve snubs and logistical tight-rope-walking as well as risk itself. Richard Noble has emerged, nonetheless, a triumphant winner. The secrets of his success against huge odds are various. He enlisted one of the world's leading aerodynamicists in Ron Ayers and built his team around a core of RAF professionals. But he kept it alive by turning to his real constituency — a 5,000-strong supporters' club and legions of followers on the Internet, who between them, with myriad donations and souvenir purchases funded 20 per cent of his Black Rock expedition.

This last-minute surge of support from the private and anonymous could without hyperbole be likened to the spirit of Dunkirk. With its help Mr Noble has certainly opened one view of the British — as inspired amateurs — since he has trounced his rival, the *Spirit of America*, in organisation as well as speed. But his cause is still more British than perhaps he knows.

Bell push



Trump that

PEACE can be but a dim hope for weary citizens of war-ravaged Croatia after the latest word from that society evergreen, Ivana Trump. She intends to start her own hotel chain there.

She has just scoured the country's bomb sites in search of suitable plots to build swell hotels for holidaying plutocrats.

"Ivana was an official guest of the Government," purrs her travelling companion, the inevitable Liz Brewer. "They are very eager for her to attract the right sort of tourist here. Her friends will love

"No lecture: Emma Thompson

it." And of this blood-stained land, she says: "It's just so unspoilt." Until now, perhaps.

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"None the wiser, my attention drifted to the so-called



Georgie girl: Cadbury heiress George Taylor turned a few heads

"supermodel" Elle Macpherson but conversation stalled rather when she enthused about shoes with red soles.

Much (male) interest was expressed in George Taylor, 21, the Cadbury heiress and latest discovery of catwalk fixer Izzie Blow. Brought up a Quaker, she is being ushered around the shows by Mama. In the parlance of the rich kid, she ventured: "Some designers have been so rude — that ghastly David Fielden dressed me in silly pants and laughed as I was bigger than the other girls. When I've saved up enough from modelling I'll go and study in New York."

JASPER GERARD



• *NEW TIMES. Out next month: a new book by Colin Spencer, *The Gay Kama Sutra*, explores the sexual jnva of biting, scratching and much, much else. His previous work was a study linking homosexuality and vegetarianism.*





FOOLS RUSH IN

A snap decision on EMU would destroy all trust in Blair

As he sets out for the Labour Party conference in Brighton, Tony Blair has the look of a man whose conquest of Britain is more assured with every week in power. The conquest of Europe must seem daily more enticing and more achievable and the thrust of Mr Blair's strategy has already been declared. It is to use the example of Britain's economic success to win over its partners to the flexible market doctrines that will shorten their dole queues and restore Europe's international competitiveness.

Fate has fired the starting gun for this campaign by giving Britain the six-month presidency of the European Union in January. Because this straddles the date when EU governments must decide who joins the first wave of economic and monetary union, the Prime Minister was bound by this autumn to come under intense pressure to accept that a commitment on joining EMU is needed to enhance his leverage.

Mr Blair was elected on the understanding that he would defend British interests in Europe as robustly as any Tory. He must keep the presidency and EMU firmly compartmentalised in his own mind if he is not to be bounced into step that would break the precious bond of trust with the country that he has so successfully forged. To enter EMU at all would be to hazard Britain's prosperity and its future on a project which is politically flawed and economically ill-judged. It would manacle the nation's freedom to act. To enter in the wake of the first wave would be to make a mockery of the claim that Labour's position is purely pragmatic.

The City's belief that the pro-EMU camp in the Cabinet will triumph is already proof against No 10's efforts publicly to counter that while all options remain open, the Government is minded to wait and see whether EMU is a success before deciding on British membership. Even after the inevitable disclaimers from No 10 and the Treasury, a *Financial Times* report yesterday that the Government was poised for a positive "declaration of intent" on joining EMU soon after the January 1999 launch date was enough to depress sterling and send the FTSE 100 soaring 160 points.

Since both trends are exactly what the Government would wish, the position of such influential friends of EMU as Gordon

Brown, Lord Simon of Highbury and the Confederation of British Industry will be strengthened. Robin Cook, the Cabinet's ranking sceptic, has accepted that Britain should not stand aloof from a successful EMU; and the task of defining success and assessing the economic costs and benefits of joining lies in Mr Brown's domain. If this was a kite released from somewhere near the Treasury roof, it caught a fair wind. The Prime Minister should redouble his guard.

Mr Blair's own position on British membership of EMU is agnostic. He is untroubled by the principle of surrendering Britain's economic sovereignty, wrongly believing this argument to be an anachronism in a globalised economy. On the national economic interest, he is open to persuasion. The politics of EMU is what matters to him. His overriding concern is to secure the full two terms in office that he is convinced, are essential if new Labour is to set its stamp on Britain. He may think that the political bottom line of deciding to join EMU in the lifetime of this Parliament is that Labour must first fight and win a referendum — and do so decisively and without losing political momentum.

Furthermore, William Hague has been arguing against the Scottish devolution referendum on the ground that such a referendum should come after the details have been hammered out. But in this case we have been asked to vote for his reforms in advance of that.

It is all very unfortunate, but let us hope we can put these matters right when we have nearly five years before another election.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HURFORD-JONES
(Chairman, Burford Branch,
West Oxfordshire Conservative
Association),
Island House, Burford, Oxfordshire.
September 26.

Lessons of Tory leadership ballot

From Mr David Hurd-Jones

Sir, Few readers could disagree with John Lloyd's assertion (article, "Blair is now the kingmaker", September 19) that both the Crown and Church, or at least the institutions, are in their different ways "leaning Left" and "deeply exhausted". This is however rather different from stating that "they have lost their faith and need to be saved".

I am not qualified to pass comment on the state of the monarchy; but as a Christian and church member for over 20 years, I find in parts of the Church that there is greatly increasing faith and confidence.

William Hague was not the choice of the constituents and he was only the first choice of 25 per cent of our few remaining MPs. He promised during his campaign for the leadership that when the system had been reformed he would put himself up for re-election.

It is clear that by linking endorsement of his leadership to the outline of his reform agenda he is trying to avoid having to stand for re-election under the reformed electoral system against other candidates.

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(Chairman, Burford Branch,
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Island House, Burford, Oxfordshire.
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From Mr Ronald Forrest

Sir, A principal objection to the radical changes proposed for future Conservative leadership elections is that the average constituency member is far less knowledgeable of political matters than MPs and certainly lacks their experience of daily contact with potential leaders.

One would therefore hope that the party will not accept the proposal to have a "one person, one vote" electoral system. But even an electoral college allowing party members a limited percentage of the total vote must be suspect for the same reasons.

Nobody could deny, on the other hand, that there are clearly valid objections to the present situation in which MPs representing only a quarter of the nation's constituencies decide who the next Conservative leader should be.

A solution would be to have an electoral college consisting of a variable percentage of the votes coming from MPs (depending on how many there are at the time of a leadership election) and the rest from the other Conservative candidates and Conservative Members who retired from Parliament at the previous general election.

This system would have two indisputable advantages. In almost all cases parliamentary candidates and former MPs have a much deeper knowledge of politics than constituency members, and since all these people will have been chosen by constituency members they would surely make ideal representatives.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD FORREST
(Chairman, Preseli Pembrokeshire
Conservative Association),
Dolfryn, Castle Morris,
Nr Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire.
September 25.

From Mr Carl Reader

Sir, I am incensed by the patronising comments of Sir Julian Critchley (letter, September 24) concerning one member, one vote. The people who pay a "paltry annual subscription" are also the people who knock on the doors at election times to get the likes of Sir Julian elected. We are also expected to raise money for the constituency associations.

The members of the ward committee which I chair wholeheartedly support William Hague's plans to give members a greater say in the formation of policy and in the election of the party leader. There is no alternative to one member, one vote. We are able to choose who we want to govern this country, yet are judged by Sir Julian to be incapable of choosing our party leader.

My hope is that the new Conservative Party will concentrate on becoming a truly mass-membership party.

Yours faithfully,
CARL READER,
4 Ketelby Rise, Old Hatch Warren,
Basingstoke, Hampshire.
September 24.

Feuding ministers

From Mr Alan Thompson

Sir, Your front-page report today, "Feuding ministers stall Blair reforms", brings comfort to those of us who were concerned that Frank Field might be eventually persuaded to surrender his legendary integrity in order to enhance the political security of others.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN THOMPSON,
Sun Haunt,
Little Bedlings, Woodbridge, Suffolk.
September 26.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Church and State in Blair's Britain

From Mr Paul H. Tippler

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Yours faithfully,
PAUL H. TIPLER
(Member, National Council,
Movement for Christian Democracy),
3 Highfield Grove, Bristol, Avon.
September 21.

Need for inquiries

From the Chief Executive of SANE

Sir, According to "experts" interviewed by Alex Frean, inquiries into mental health tragedies are costly and achieve little (report, September 23). SANE would agree that most of the inquiries do report a total lack of communication between agencies and that any one health authority does not appear to learn any lessons from its neighbour.

One would therefore hope that the party will not accept the proposal to have a "one person, one vote" electoral system. But even an electoral college allowing party members a limited percentage of the total vote must be suspect for the same reasons.

Nobody could deny, on the other hand, that there are clearly valid objections to the present situation in which MPs representing only a quarter of the nation's constituencies decide who the next Conservative leader should be.

A solution would be to have an electoral college consisting of a variable percentage of the votes coming from MPs (depending on how many there are at the time of a leadership election) and the rest from the other Conservative candidates and Conservative Members who retired from Parliament at the previous general election.

This system would have two indisputable advantages. In almost all cases parliamentary candidates and former MPs have a much deeper knowledge of politics than constituency members, and since all these people will have been chosen by constituency members they would surely make ideal representatives.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD FORREST
(Chairman, Preseli Pembrokeshire
Conservative Association),
Dolfryn, Castle Morris,
Nr Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire.
September 25.

From Mr Carl Reader

Sir, I am incensed by the patronising comments of Sir Julian Critchley (letter, September 24) concerning one member, one vote. The people who pay a "paltry annual subscription" are also the people who knock on the doors at election times to get the likes of Sir Julian elected. We are also expected to raise money for the constituency associations.

The members of the ward committee which I chair wholeheartedly support William Hague's plans to give members a greater say in the formation of policy and in the election of the party leader. There is no alternative to one member, one vote. We are able to choose who we want to govern this country, yet are judged by Sir Julian to be incapable of choosing our party leader.

My hope is that the new Conservative Party will concentrate on becoming a truly mass-membership party.

Yours faithfully,
CARL READER,
4 Ketelby Rise, Old Hatch Warren,
Basingstoke, Hampshire.
September 24.

Saudi law

From Mr Oliver Dines

Sir, The welfare of the British nurses awaiting sentence in Saudi Arabia (letters, September 26) — and incidentally the interests of British arms exporters — are not best served by our manipulating the decision of the Saudi judicial system as a means to discredit, question or undermine Islamic societies.

Both Sharia — a cornerstone of Islam and Saudi law — and Christianity embrace the virtues of compassion and mercy.

Appeals for these qualities to be upheld by the empowered King Fahd will bear no weight if burdened by hate and prejudice — be it racial or religious.

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER DINES,
176 Sheepot, Cowper Gardens, N14.
September 26.

Weekend Money letters, page 61

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Yours sincerely,
MARK DINAN,
28 Palace Court,
Adams Close, Surbiton, Surrey.
dinan@compuserve.com
September 18.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE SCOTT,
Pantiles,
Wilderness Road, Chiswick, Kent.
September 26.

No 1 Poultry sets feathers flying

From Mrs Sheila Jones

Sir, City of London workers were not wrong in objecting to Sir James Stirling's design. Number One Poultry ("Was this worth three decades of argument?", Marcus Binney, September 23) looks exactly as the artist's impression promised: like a stage set from *Aida* made of Battenberg cake.

Even more insightfully than 125 London Wall, the span of which adds insult to injury by blocking out the last bit of sky over the City, it is totally out of character, sympathy and architectural ethos with the City as a whole, let alone its hub. It jumps down your throat at every distant sighting from the street, fanning away from the Bank.

Whoever devises and sanctions these buildings should be locked in the Tower. Lucky Nicholas Ridley and James Stirling are released from the pain the rest will have to suffer every time we cross the Bank.

Yours sincerely,
SHEILA JONES,
Old Broad Street Bureau Limited,
65 London Wall, EC2.
September 23.

From Sir Peter Kemp

Sir, Can Marcus Binney have actually seen the new Number One Poultry? Does he remember just how awful the old Mappin & Webb building was? Has he got the imagination to see how appalling the alternative prism-shaped affair would have been?

The new building is a vision of light and colour, something which uplifts the City and puts a spring in the stride of everyone who walks past it.

Yours etc,
PETER KEMP,
2 Longton Avenue, SE26.

September 23.

From Mr Edward J. O'Brien

Sir, Mr Marcus Binney will surely appreciate one great benefit of Number One Poultry. How we and our children to judge what is good architectural design unless we are able to observe the bad?

I will never criticise the BBC building again.

Yours faithfully,

EDWARD J. O'BRIEN,
48 Springfield, Cam, Gloucestershire.
edobrien@compuserve.com

From Miss Elizabeth Lewis

Sir, Perhaps it is the colour, cream and pink; or perhaps it is the bulging form and cavernous maw; or perhaps it is the name; but to me the new building suggests an oven-ready supermarket chicken.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH LEWIS,
Fifth Farm House,
Frith Lane, Wickham, Hampshire.
September 24.

Ask a silly question . . .

From Mr John McKibbin

Sir, In 1946 I recounted to a senior diplomat some of the questions put to me during the lengthy postwar examination for entry into the Foreign Service (letters, September 1, 10, 16, 20, 22).

He commented: "What a waste of time! In my day the answer to one question was enough — who's your bootmaker?" I quickly tucked my feet under the chair.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MCKIBBIN,
31 Northway, NW1.
September 23.

From Mr Mark Ashford

Sir, A candidate was undergoing the ordeal of the Admiralty Interview Board when the president, an Admiral or similarly terrifying figure, waved his hand at a map on the wall and invited him to "point to Murmansk". The candidate hadn't a clue, but, spying next to the map a photo of the Royal Family, he confidently stuck his finger on one of the corgis and said "It's that one, Sir!"

The interview concluded in breathless disarray and he went on to a successful career in the Senior Service.

Yours faithfully,

MARK ASHFORD,
79 Oliver Street,
Amphill, Bedfordshire.

From Mrs Lesley Moule

Sir, My friend, being interviewed for a place to read geography at university, was given a piece of rock and asked what it was.

"A paperweight," she replied.

Yours faithfully,

LESLEY MOULE,
17 River Close,
Baldock, Hertfordshire.
September 22.

Thirsty work

From Dr George W. Scott

Sir, Celebrations are in order for the British team in Nevada on breaking the land speed record with 714mph (details, September 26). It is reported that the nearest bar is eight miles away across the desert. If they drive there it should take them 40 seconds.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE SCOTT,
Pantiles,
Wilderness Road, Chiswick, Kent.
September 26.



COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE
September 26: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Admiral Sir Nicholas Hunt (Vice Admiral of the United Kingdom) at the Funeral of Admiral Sir Derek Empson (formerly Vice Admiral of the United Kingdom) which was held in the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Hambleton, Hampshire, this morning.

The Prince of Wales was represented by Admiral Sir John Briggstocke.

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 26: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this afternoon opened Tim Jones House, the new Headquarters of Youth Clubs Sussex Limited, Rochester Gardens, Hove, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of East Sussex (Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson).

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 26: The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Parkinson's Disease Society, this morning visited the Parkinson's Disease Brain Research Centre, University of London, London WC1.

Royal engagements

TODAY:
The Princess Royal, as President, Animal Health Trust, will attend a Charity Day at Thistleton Castle, Lauder, Berwickshire, at 10.00.

Princess Margaret will attend the Festival of British Racing Day at Ascot, at 2.00, and will present The Queen's Trophy for the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes.

The Duke of Gloucester, as Trustee, the British Museum, will attend a trustees' meeting at the museum at 10.00.

Luncheon

Sheriffs of the City of London
After their admission to the office of Sheriffs of the City of London, Mr Alderman and Sheriff David Howard and Mr Alderman and Sheriff Michael Oliver received the guests at the Sheriffs' Breakfast held yesterday at Drapers' Hall. Vice-Admiral Sir James Weatherhead, Judge Sir Lawrence Verney, Mr Alderman Civic Marin and Mr Keith Knowles were the speakers. Among others present were the Vice-Chairman of the City of London, Sir Edward Howard, Sir Ralph Perring, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Navy, and the Hon Ed McWilliams, Sir Colin Cola, Sir Richard Evans, Sir John Hulman, Sir Christopher Jones, the Recorder of London, and the Remembrancer, Members of the Court of Aldermen and Court of Common Council, the Royal Companies, former Sheriffs and Officers of the Corporation of London.

University news

Royal Holloway
Sir Robin McLaren, former Ambassador to China, has been appointed a member of College Council for a five year term of office.

Church news

Resignations and retirements
The Rev Roy Goodchild, Vicar, Tickhill and Flimwell (Chichester) retired September 1.

The Rev Andrew Roff, Vicar, Cosford St Nicholas (Newcastle) to resign October 31.

Other appointments
Captain Frank Fletcher, CA, Assistant Chaplain, HMP Highpoint (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich) has been appointed Chaplain, HMP Whieldon (York).

Consecration
The Rev Christine Mason, Assistant Curate, Blakenhall Heath (Lichfield) to be Team Vicar, Rugeley with special responsibility for the Holy Spirit (same diocese).

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

Weekend birthdays

TODAY:

Lord Ahinger, 83; Sir Nigel Althaus, former Government Broker, 68; Miss Brigitte Bardot, actress, 63; Professor Sir Colin Berry, morbid anatomist, 60; Lady Bray, 86; the Duke of Buccleuch, KT, 74; Sir Robin Buchanan, former chairman, NHS Supplies Authority, Wessex Regional Health Authority, 67; Lord Cockfield, 81; Mr Peter Egan, actor, 51; Dame Phyllis Friend, former chief nursing officer, DHSS, 75; Lieutenant-General S.C. Grant, 53.

Mr Mika Häkinen, racing driver, 29; Sir David Hannay, diplomat, 62; Mr Lyndon Harris, son, MEP, 50; Dr R.B. Heywood, former director, British Antarctic Survey, 66; Sir Trevor Hughes, water engineer, 72; Sir Jeremy Isaacs, former general director, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, 68; Mrs Alice Mahon, MP, 68; Miss Ellen Malcolm, pianist, 74; Sir Peter Miller, former chairman, Lloyd's of London, 67; Miss Mary Moon, former Headmistress, Manchester High School for Girls, 65; Major E.S. Orr Ewing, Lord Lieutenant of Wigton, 66; Mr Ian Snow, television journalist, 50.

Anniversaries

TODAY:

BIRTHS: Samuel Adams, American independence leader, Boston, 1722; George Cruikshank, caricaturist, London, 1792; Louis Botha, 1st Prime Minister of South Africa, 1910-19; Greytown, South Africa, 1862; Bernard Miles, actor, founder of the Mermaid Theatre, London, 1907.

DEATHS: William of Wykeham, chancellor, Bishop of Winchester, Bishop, Waltham, Hants, 1404; Edgar Degas, painter, Paris, 1917; Edouard Paul, Baroness Caraman, soprano, Craignos Castle, near Swanage, Dorset, 1919; Ernest Hummert, composer, Neustrelitz, Germany, 1921; Aristide Mailol, painter and sculptor, Bansuls-sur-Mer, 1944; Clara Bow, the "It" girl film star, Los Angeles, 1928; Dame Grade Fields, singer, Capri, 1979; The Society of Jesus was founded, 1540.

The Stockton-Darlington railway opened, 1823.

Europe's first "moving pavement", the traveler, opened at Bank Underground station, 1960.

The musical *Hair* opened in London, just one day after theatre censorship ended in Britain, 1968.

TOMORROW:

BIRTHS: Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, painter, Caravaggio, Italy, 1571; Henry Fox, 1st Baron Holland, statesman, Chilwell, 1705; Prosper Mérimée, writer, Paris, 1803; Francis Turner Palgrave, compiler of the *Golden*

Treasury of Lyrical Poetry, Great Yarmouth, 1824; Georges Clemenceau, Premier of France, 1917-20.

Mouilleron-en-Pareds, 1841; Sir John Denton French, 1st Earl of Ypres, C-in-C of the British Expeditionary Force in France 1914-15; Ripple, Kent, 1852; Pietro Badoglio, Marshal of Italy and Prime Minister 1943-44; Graziano, Piedmont, 1871; Sir Charles Perie, historian, Liverpool, 1895; Peter Finch, actor, London, 1916.

DEATHS: Wenceslas, patron saint of Czechoslovakia, martyred, Staré Boleslav, 929; Thomas Day, author, killed by a fall from a horse at Wargrave, Berkshire, 1789; Herman Melville, novelist and poet, New York, 1891; Louis Pasteur, bacteriologist, St Cloud, France, 1895; Edwin Hubble, astronomer, San Marino, California, 1953; Gerard Hoffnung, artist, humorist and musician, 1898; Arthur (Harpo) Marx, comedian, Hollywood, 1964; André Breton, surrealist poet, Paris, 1966; Gamal Abdel Nasser, President of Egypt 1956-70; Cairo, 1970; Sir Robert Helpmann, dancer and choreographer, Sydney, 1986; Miles Davis, jazz trumpeter, Santa Monica, California, 1991.

The Greeks defeated the Persians at Marathon, 490 BC.

Polish immigrant Simon Marks and Yorkshireman Tom Spencer opened their Penny Bazaar, Manchester, 1894.

The *Radio Times* was first published, 1923.

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OBITUARIES

TOM GREEVES

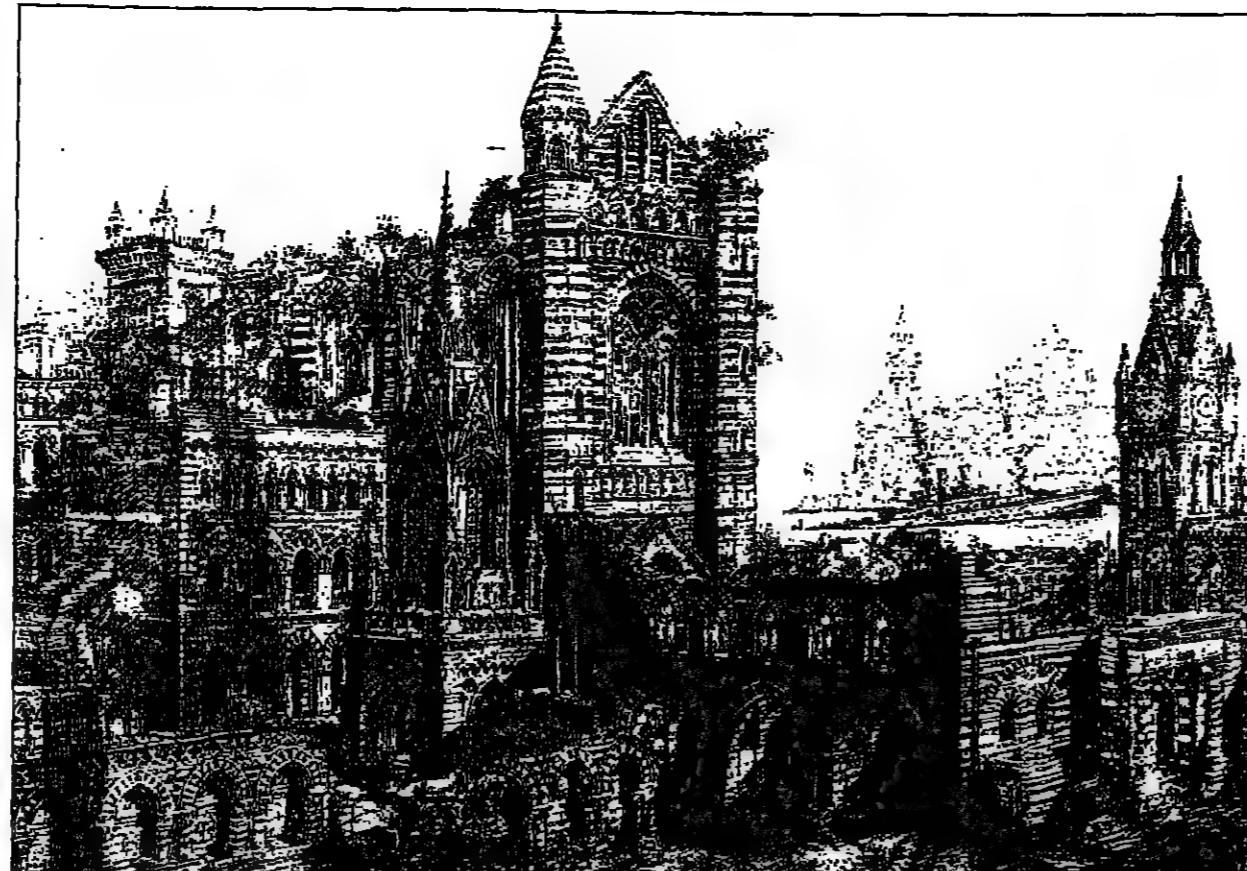


Tom Greeves, architectural conservationist and draughtsman, died on August 31 aged 80. He was born on June 4, 1917.

As well as being a pen-and-ink draughtsman of remarkable sensitivity and imagination, Tom Greeves made an important contribution to the protection of Victorian London. As a founder member of the Victorian Society in 1957 he was active in limiting the postwar demolitions, and he was later instrumental in saving from redevelopment the delightful 19th-century artists' and aesthetes' community of Bedford Park, Chiswick, where he lived.

Thomas Affleck Greeves first showed his unusual artistic gifts as a schoolboy at Radley, and it was recommended that he go to the Slade. But the diet of figure-drawing he found there could not diminish a childhood interest in architecture and machines. The sight of the huge airship R101 floating gracefully over his prep school playing fields in Elstree, and his discovery of books about ancient and Victorian architecture in the library at Radley, had already begun to form a gently subversive sensibility. A sudden revelation of the towers and spires of St Pancras Station on one morning of misty sunlight was also a formative experience.

He recognised the deeply romantic potential of 19th-century townscapes at a time when the great and the good eagerly anticipated wide demolition. He could never have expressed such feelings fully through his intended career in architectural practice, and the



The Battleship, 1974, one of Tom Greeves's vividly imagined urban landscapes

interruption of his training at Cambridge by the outbreak of war led to an experience which further shaped and directed his creative imagination. In 1942 a three-year attachment to the Indian Army took him to the North-West Frontier Province and a world of mosques, palaces, rock-cut temples and overgrown ruined cities. The gradually decaying Victorian Gothic buildings of the British Raj were no less striking, and their curious juxtaposition with tropical vegetation added an exotic element to Greeves's imaginative landscape, which was already emerging in delicately executed ink drawings of drama and force.

Greeves had discovered Piranesi as a schoolboy, and was to be much influenced by the etchings of Charles Meryon, and F. L. Griggs, in whose imaginary medieval townscapes he recognised the work of a kindred spirit. After the war his training was completed at the Architectural Association, but he eventually

abandoned professional practice to pursue his own vision through drawing.

He came to public notice in 1951 as the winner of the Architects' Benevolent Society competition to design a monument to the Good Old Days of Architecture. Greeves's winning drawing displayed the humour that was an essential ingredient of all he did.

This was even more pronounced in the strange flying machines which appeared in *The Saturday Book* in 1966 and 1967. *The Assisted Take-off* shows a steam-powered aircraft of wood and canvas, belching coal smoke as it struggles from the air from a massive Italianate brick and stucco ramp. In another illustration, a spreading steam palace ascends slowly but violently in clouds of vapour and dust, scattering onlookers to right and left.

Few contemporaries could match Greeves's understanding of light and atmosphere, and although it is tempting to compare it to the theatrical

chiaroscuro of Piper and other Neo-Romantic artists, a drawing such as *The Country House*, with the delicate melancholy of its late winter afternoon sunlight, is unmistakably Greeves's.

Watching London's skyline of spires and domes being gradually diminished by corporate Leviathans caused Greeves real anguish, and he was one of the distinguished group (including Nikolaus Pevsner, John Bejeman, J. M. Richards, Hugh Casson and Osbert Lancaster) that met at 18 Stafford Terrace in November 1957 to found the Victorian Society.

His greatest personal achievement in building conservation was the saving of Bedford Park, the early garden suburb of Chiswick where charming tile-hung, red-brick "Queen Anne" houses had been built by Godwin, Norman Shaw and E. J. May to house a community of artists, writers and aesthetes.

Greeves moved there with his wife, Eleanor, in 1951. Here

they lived in the spirit of the place, as true "Bedford Parkers", with Tom drawing and playing Bach and Scarlatti on the fortepiano, and Eleanor designing and printing decorative wall tiles. But at that time the whole area was under threat from private developers and council building projects. Thanks to his determination and persistence, Greeves won recognition and, in 1967, statutory listing for these delightful buildings.

Before his illness he was a familiar figure around Bedford Park, conducting guided walks which very often ended in the snug of the Tabard Inn. Here, among the De Morgan tiles and painted woodwork of Norman Shaw's interior, students of architecture and urban design could share the insights and vivid memories of this genial, cultivated and gifted guardian of historic townscapes real and imaginary.

He is survived by his wife, Eleanor, and two sons, Peter and Richard.

JIMMY WITHERSPOON

Jimmy Witherspoon, blues singer, died on September 18 in Los Angeles aged 74. He was born on August 8, 1923.

JIMMY WITHERSPOON was one of the last great blues shouters, a muscular breed of black American vocalists (including Joe Turner, Wynonie Harris and Eddie "Rochester" Harris) who had to shout to be heard above the blaring brass sections and electrified rhythms of the jump bands that backed them.

In the bars and clubs of the big cities in the immediate postwar years, the bands that had evolved out of the larger territory bands of the 1920s and 1930s would create a new form of black music called rhythm and blues, and so turn Witherspoon into a jukebox favourite. But when fashions changed in the late 1950s, he was able to find equal success in the jazz field, before the blues world reclaimed him during the blues boom of the late 1960s. His recording career spanned 50 years, and he was as much at home with the jazz giant Ben Webster as he was, in later decades, with the white blues guitarist Robben Ford.

Jimmy Witherspoon was born in Gurdon, Arkansas, and sang as a child at the local baptist church where his mother played piano. He moved to California during his teens and ended up washing dishes before joining the Merchant Marine during the Second World War. It was while stationed in Calcutta that he was invited to sing with the American bandleader and pianist Teddy Weatherford, who had a residency at the city's Grand Hotel.

After his discharge in 1944 he auditioned for the band-leader Jay McShann, who had just lost his star vocalist Walter Brown. Recalling the audition, Witherspoon told the rock historian Arnold Shaw: "I was wearing a Lieutenant junior grade uniform. I was chief cook and steward in the Merchant Marine, but I looked like a Japanese admiral with my braids and all."

He got the job and made his first records with the band in Los Angeles in 1945. He built up a solid reputation with his warm, rich and exuberant vocals and was soon cutting records under his own name, including the two-part *Ain't Nobody's Business*, which stayed on the *Billboard* rhythm and blues chart for 34 weeks in 1949.

He went to record for the Los Angeles-based Modern label, where he enjoyed a double-sided hit with *No Rollin' Blues* and *Big Fine Blues* and also recorded *Real Ugly Woman*, one of the first songs by a pair of music-mad high school pupils called Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller.

But as rhythm and blues developed into rock 'n' roll, Witherspoon found himself sidelined, until a surprise appearance at the 1959 Monterey Jazz Festival relaunched his career. He revelled in the company of such stars as Ben Webster, Gerry Mulligan and Jack McDuff, and found a whole new legion of fans. He was a frequent visitor to Europe, but refused to be categorised as a jazz singer.

"That's a dirty word, I'm a singer and I'm a blues singer and I'm an American singer."



he told *Living Blues* magazine in 1977.

Later came flirtations with rock and a partnership with the former Animals singer Eric Burdon, as well as a fruitful relationship with the guitarist Robben Ford. In between tours he also became a disc jockey on American radio.

It was while touring Britain in 1984 that he was diagnosed with throat cancer and taken to hospital in Manchester for emergency treatment. After a long period of recuperation he returned to performing, with a voice that was deeper but far less powerful than before. "I had radiation on my throat and turned an octave deeper," he told the audience when he appeared at London's Jazz Café for a short set last year. On that occasion he looked jaunty enough in a pinstripe suit, but the magnificent voice was gone. The timing and the phrasing, however, showed him still a master of his craft.

He is survived by his wife, Diana, and three children.

BILL HUNTER CHRISTIE

Bill Hunter Christie, barrister and campaigner for the Falkland Islanders, died on September 22 aged 75. He was born on August 18, 1922.

BILL HUNTER CHRISTIE belonged to that great English tradition of independently minded individuals with non-conformist, outsiders' temperaments, who espouse and champion causes without regard to authority, popularity or self-interest. Over the centuries such people have brought honour and probity to public life and have sometimes, by sheer persistence, managed to change orthodox opinion and occasionally to move government policy.

Eric William Hunter Christie was such a figure. The son of a Queen's Counsel, and the grandson of an Astronomer Royal, he was educated at Marlborough and, after going straight into the Coldstream

Guards at the age of 18, eventually read for the Bar himself, being called by Lincoln's Inn (of which his father had served as Treasurer) in 1952.

A highly able man with a lucid mind, he sacrificed the chance of a conventionally successful career at the Bar in order to devote his legal talents to deserving causes that interested him. One example was the Inland Waterways Association and its fight to keep the network intact.

However, he will principally be remembered as the person who kept the Falkland Islands at Britain's side when successive governments were tempted to regard them as an awkward inheritance from Empire that threatened from its Government he proposed to reassess Argentina's dormant claim to the Falkland Islands with Argentina.

If the attempted negotiating visits paid to the Falklands first by a Labour and then by a Tory junior minister at the Foreign Office — Ted Rowlings in 1977 and Nicholas

Ridley in 1980 — both came to nothing, it was largely because each ran into the road-block of a parliamentary veto effectively erected by the lobbying efforts of Hunter Christie.

He certainly had the background for such a task. Having been badly wounded in 1943, he was invalided out of the Army and the following year joined the South American department of the Foreign Office.

Between 1946 and 1948 he served as Third Secretary at the British Embassy in Buenos Aires, where he met President Perón. Indiscreet, Perón told him that in order to deflect political unrest from his Government he proposed to reassess Argentina's dormant claim to the Falkland Islands.

Hunter Christie's curiosity was immediately aroused, and his interest in South Atlantic issues was sealed by his spending the following two years, 1949-50, at the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge. He published the results of his work there in *The Antarctic Problem* (1951).

As early as 1968, Falkland Island councillors suspected that Harold Wilson's Labour Government was secretly negotiating sovereignty with Argentina, and appealed for help. The United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee was formed in response to this appeal, with the aim of obtaining official recognition of the right of the islanders — who numbered fewer than 2,000 — to determine their own destiny. Hunter Christie was a founder member of this committee, served as its honorary secretary (1968-78) and throughout played a leading role in its work.

For 25 years he was "Mr Falklands", consulted and respected by politicians, diplomats and writers, many of whom rejected his opinions but found that they could not ignore them. His views were stubbornly and uncompromisingly held — like those of the islanders themselves — but he saw further and more clearly than most.

It is certainly the case that if the British Government had listened to the advice of the Falklands Islands Committee there would have been no Argentine invasion in 1982, and it was not to dispatch the task force. A series of discussion papers on military and economic matters was pro-

duced by the committee, and many of the ideas advanced were later developed in the Shackleton reports, one before the invasion and the other afterwards.

A great deal of the early work designed to establish a fisheries regime off the Falklands — with an unusually wide fishing limit — was done by Hunter Christie and the South Atlantic Fisheries Committee. The present prosperity of the islands is a direct consequence of their initiative.

To the end of his life nothing

delighted Hunter Christie more than to rehearse the story of a visit he once paid with a delegation to a Foreign Office minister, in whose room a senior civil servant solemnly assured the assembled gathering that "there are no fish in the South Atlantic".

Hunter Christie was a remarkable man, with the ability to inspire people, particularly the young, to support the causes he championed. He possessed an exciting and original mind, great energy and courage. He committed every

MILESTONES

Viscount Tonypandy, Speaker of the House of Commons, 1976-83, died on September 22 aged 88. He was born on January 29, 1909.

George Thomas, the son of a Rhondda miner, was born in



Port Talbot and educated at Tonypandy Secondary School and University College, Southampton. He joined the Labour Party in 1925, and delivered his first political speech when only 18. In 1936 he led a hunger march from Tonypandy to Cardiff.

A committed left-winger, he won the Cardiff Central seat in 1945. He became Secretary of State for Wales in 1968 for two years, but it was not in the Government formed by Harold Wilson in March 1974. He was the first Speaker in the age of broadcasting from the Commons, and became famous as a result. During this year's general election, he gave his support to the Referendum Party.

It is certainly the case that if the British Government had listened to the advice of the Falklands Islands Committee there would have been no Argentine invasion in 1982, and it was not to dispatch the task force. A series of discussion papers on military and economic matters was pro-

hibited to race at Doncaster, Salisbury and Folkestone. *Obituary published on September 24.*

Admiral Sir Derek Empson, GBE, KCB, naval aviator and Second Sea Lord, 1971-74, died on



September 20 aged 78. He was born on October 29, 1918.

Derek Empson served the Navy for nearly four decades, and his experiences encompassed the whole history of Royal Navy aviation, from the ill-equipped struggles of the early war years to the postwar heyday of high performance, jet-propelled aircraft operating from huge aircraft carriers. By the end of the 1940s he had achieved a remarkable 78 deck landings without a single incident. After commanding the fleet carrier *Eagle*, he became a full admiral in 1972, and served as Vice-Admiral of the United Kingdom, 1986-88.

Obituary published on September 24.

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HOT SEAT 30
Guy Hands:
the risk-taker
at Nomura

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

BUSINESS

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27 1997

**WEEKEND
MONEY**
SECTION 2 PAGES 51-64

Shares surge to record level as sterling takes a beating

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE stock market stormed to a record high and the pound plunged as speculation that Britain will make an early entry into a European single currency reached fever pitch.

Traders seized on reports that the Government is moving towards a more pro-EMU stance as evidence that Britain could join a single currency as soon as 2000.

Although the Treasury moved swiftly to dismiss the reports as "speculation", the City was predicting that a firm announcement on the Government's plans for EMU could be made as early as next week at the Labour conference.

The FTSE 100 closed up 160.8 points at 5,263, the biggest one-day points gain for ten years. The rise added nearly £30 billion to the value of the index. The stock market's meteoric rise was also aided by a rise on Wall Street after a downwards revision in US second-quarter GDP figures.

Gilt prices also climbed steeply with the benchmark December gilt contract leaping £19 to close at £119¹¹, while the spread with German bunds narrowed by two basis points to 98.

While shares and bonds soared on expectations that EMU entry will mean lower interest rates, the pound went into reverse as it lost its "safe haven" status. The pound slipped to a four-month low against the German mark during trading, before settling down four pence at DM2.6324. Sterling's trade-weighted index slipped 1.4 points to 99.7, while the pound lost two cents to \$1.6053.

Economists said that the pound was also suffering because the Government is likely to want to enter EMU at levels closer to DM2.50. Michigan

Saunders, UK economist at Salomon Brothers, added that by stirring speculation about UK entry into EMU, the Government was capping gilt yields and edging sterling lower "without precipitating a currency crisis".

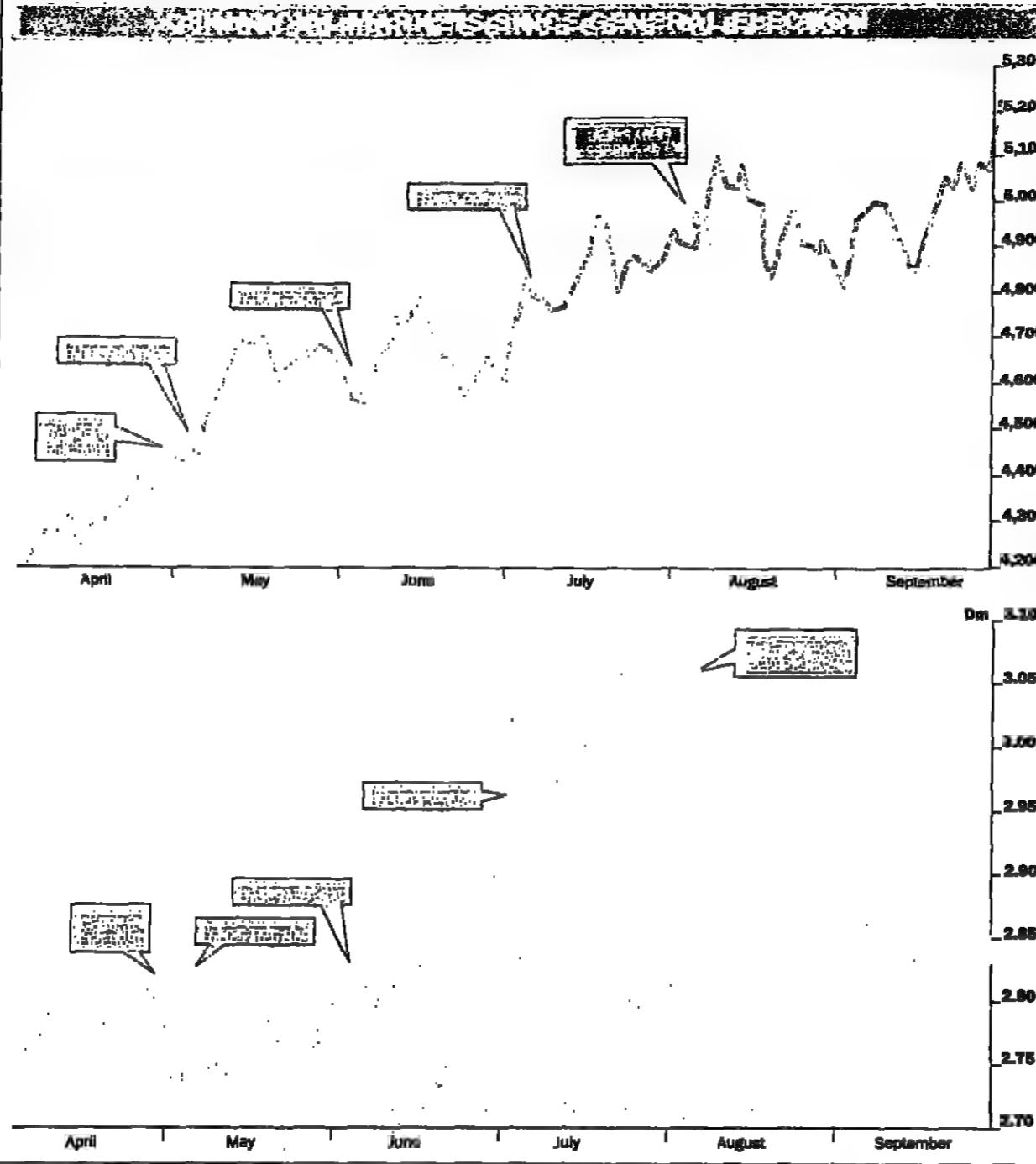
Economists also cautioned about the short-term outlook for the market, pointing to the fact that the fall in sterling made it more likely that the Bank of England will raise rates. Philip Shaw, UK economist at Investec, said: "The fall in sterling has eased the Bank's policy dilemma making a rate rise more likely."

Financial service sector stocks led the stock market higher with analysts calculating that higher bond prices and lower interest rates will boost profits. Barclays jumped 135¹¹ p to £16.64¹¹, Nat West rose 85¹¹ p to 932¹¹ p while Lloyds TSB was 45 p better off at 520¹¹ p. Industrial and manufacturing stocks also enjoyed a strong showing as the pound tumbled. GKN climbed 89¹¹ p to £14.19, while TI rose 55 p to 661¹¹ p.

Businesses with a strong European presence gave a warm welcome to the reports. Peter Foster, finance director at Commercial Union, said: "Given the fact that we have such major operations within continental Europe, we would certainly find a lot of attractions in joining in with a common European currency."

British Steel, which has seen profits tumble over the past year due to the strength of the pound, cautioned on joining at the current high level of the pound. John Rennocks, executive director of finance, said the company would welcome the more stable currency outlook if the UK joined EMU.

Commentary, page 29
Stock market, page 31



Cash is king for 43% of Northern Rock holders

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

NEARLY half of Northern Rock customers have opted to sell their shares immediately in an auction to be held on the eve of the society's flotation next week. The society estimates about 43 per cent of its members will sell their entire holding of 500 shares through the Hoare Govett facility.

They are selling their shares, in spite of the fact that it will cost them £10. The Alliance & Leicester, Woolwich and Halifax, all offered free share dealing facilities. Approximately a quarter of the shares in these three converted societies were sold by investors immediately.

In spite of the high number of people selling out, City Index, the financial bookmaker, forecasts that shares in the Northern Rock could reach

between 420p and 433p when the society makes its stock market debut on October 1. This would give each of Northern Rock's 900,000 members an average windfall of £2,100 — higher than nearly all the other converting societies.

Northern Rock's membership are selling their shares even though City analysts believe that it is a good growth stock. Salomon Brothers said: "It is a cost-efficient operation which allows profitability at low margins. Northern Rock should significantly outpace the 6.7 per cent growth in the mortgage market."

Adam Applegarth, Northern Rock executive director, said: "The high number of people selling is a culmination of number of things. We have a predominantly local mem-

bership. Geordies tend to like cash."

He pointed out that the North East and Newcastle have the lowest proportion of people who own shares. He added: "We suspect that many sellers will use some of their windfall for holiday or new household goods or just a treat in general."

Cl Peter Birch, chief executive of Abbey National, said in Hong Kong yesterday that building societies are going to find it increasingly difficult to remain mutual "because they do not have access to capital and capital eventually is king". Abbey National converted to a bank and floated on the stock market in 1989.

Tempus, page 31
Rock steady, page 64

Buffett may sell stake in Salomon

WARREN BUFFETT, the billionaire investor, could sell his 19 per cent Salomon stake after the bank's \$9 billion merger this week with Traveller Group, according to Deryck Maughan, the Salomon executive chairman (Oliver August writes).

Mr Buffett backed the merger and will hold a 4 per cent stake in the new group worth \$350 million after the proposed stock swap.

In an interview with *The Times* Mr Maughan said: "He has not characterised it as a long-term holding. He is positive on the deal, but whatever he does won't critically affect us."

Although he is a senior non-executive director of Salomon, Mr Buffett will not be on the Traveller board.

Advertisers were overcharged for five years in some cases after incorrect circula-

Reed admits circulation figures were overstated

BY ADAM JONES

REED ELSEVIER could face legal demands for compensation of at least £125 million after admitting drastic overstatement of circulation figures on some of its leading international directories.

A full investigation is underway at its Reed Travel Group division, which publishes airline and hotel directories and the company advises "a substantial write-down" is likely.

Shares of Reed International, the UK arm of the Anglo-Dutch group, fell 49¹¹ p to 536¹¹ p yesterday as investors sought to quantify the extent of the damage. The company said it would take "a number of months" before the extent of the overstatement is known.

The board also intends to write down intangible asset values. Auditor's report yesterday suggested this could be by more than £100 million.

Reed said the irregularities

had been discovered after new management arrived at Reed Travel Group last August. The overstatement took place between 1991 and 1995, when the directories produced total revenues of about £500 million.

One industry source estimated the circulation overstatement could be 15 to 20 per cent. Advertisers include the Hyatt and Sheraton hotel groups, United Airlines and British Airways.

Nigel Stapleton, Reed Elsevier co-chairman, said it was too early to say whether the irregularities will warrant police investigation.

The board also intends to write down intangible asset values. Auditor's report yesterday suggested this could be by more than £100 million.

Reed said the irregularities

Ashley issued its third profit warning in five months, turning up the heat on Ann Iverson, the group's ever-hopeful chief executive.

NatWest Markets stuck its neck out with a prediction that the FTSE 100 would hit 7,000 by the end of 2000. By good fortune, yesterday's reaction to an EMU rumour brought that target significantly closer.

One senses the hand again of Soros, who famously made \$1 billion shorting the pound ahead of the UK's withdrawal from the ERM in 1992. Back in smoke-shrouded Kuala Lumpur, Dr M can only sit and weep.

JON ASHWORTH

A WEEK IN THE CITY

George Soros is not a man who takes kindly to criticism. Neither is Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the mercurial Prime Minister of Malaysia. So delegates at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) annual conference in Hong Kong could not quite believe it when Soros dismissed the Malaysian premier as "a menace to his country".

Dr Mahathir's "crime" had been to launch an outspoken attack on "immortal" financial speculators, blaming them for Malaysia's economic malaise. His proposed solution — a ban on currency trading — sent the ringgit to a 26-year low against the dollar, leaving the smoke drifting literally under a pall. The smoke drifting

across from Indonesia did little for his mood.

The fun and games at the IMF came sandwiched neatly between two headline-grabbing mergers, and a rampant display by the London stock market. No sooner had Price Waterhouse announced its engagement with Coopers & Lybrand, than Travelers Group, owner of Smith Barney, the US broker, unveiled plans to swallow Salomon, the hard-nosed Wall Street investment

bank. The \$9 billion deal makes a millionaire of Peter Middleton, the motorcycling monk who tried to sort out the mess at Lloyd's of London. Middleton, who has expanded comfortably into his new role, cleans up on Salomon shares. He will head the enlarged European operations of Salomon Smith Barney, leaving the task of running the worldwide firm to Deryck Maughan, the New York-based son of a Durham coalminer. The last laugh went to Warren Buffett,

whose reputation as a canny investor has proved well-founded over the years. Little over a week ago, the markets reacted in horror at his decision to shift \$2 billion out of equities and into bonds — a traditional haven ahead of an impending stock market crash. A few days on, his long-held stake in Salomon stands to net him a profit of at least \$1.4 billion, leaving him more or less back where he started.

Another investment powerhouse, the

mighty Nomura found itself cast in the unlikely role of Britain's biggest landlord, when it gulped down Intertel for £1.2 billion. Eurotunnel edged into the black for the first time in 11 years, but there was less cheer at Sears, which announced plans to sell or close all its shoe shops, leading to up to 850 redundancies.

Carlsberg-Tedey said it was getting rid of three of its five breweries, scuppering 1,500 jobs. Poor Laura

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† SOURCE: Microcal. Average share price growth per annum with net income reinvested from 1/1/80 to 1/3/97. The equivalent five year figure is 14.9% per annum.

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Fellow Traveler popped question over dinner



Maughan: phoned invitation

THE idea for the \$9 billion takeover of Salomon by Travelers Group was hatched on the 43rd floor of the World Trade Center. Deryck Maughan, Salomon's executive chairman, can see Travelers' head office in Midtown Manhattan from his window — and by the end of the year he will be based there.

On August 14, he picked up the phone and called Sandford Weill, his opposite number at Travelers, and invited him to dinner. At the Four Seasons, he asked him: "Sandy, the world is changing, what are you going to do?" Mr Weill put his aggressive acquisition machine into top gear and created America's second-largest financial services merger in less than a month. The joint group, whose new investment banking arm is to be called Salomon Smith Barney, will be worth \$55 billion.

Few on Wall Street can believe that

Oliver August finds out how a takeover came to be on the menu for Salomon

the initiative came from Mr Maughan. After the merger announcement rumours were spreading that Mr Maughan had been bounced into the deal by Warren Buffett, the investor with a 19 per cent stake. Other bankers had apparently seen him looking gloomy in meetings with Travelers. It seems they mistook his naturally humble nature for something else.

The son of a Co Durham miner, Mr Maughan has worked for the Treasury and is excited about the prospect of making Salomon part of a global financial institution that deals in everything from insurance retail to selling

government bonds. Mr Weill wants to make further overseas acquisitions, taking non-US revenues far beyond the 25 per cent of the present total, according to an animated Mr Maughan.

In his view, finance will in future be dominated by six to eight global giants. He said: "I used to think there were ten, but that's probably too many." Other investment banks of Salomon proportions — Credit Suisse First Boston or Bear Stearns — will either have to find merger partners or perish.

Mr Maughan said: "We will be one of the global survivors. If others don't follow us, they will be forced into much

lower profitability." Some Wall Street banking analysts agree, and even talk of an eventual takeover of Goldman Sachs, a limited partnership.

But such huge deals also create problems. Mr Maughan will have to share power at Salomon. Smith Barney with his co-chief executive James Dimon, a Weill protege. Speculation as to how long Mr Maughan will last in this position already abounds. *The Wall Street Journal* said: "The show may have a short run." *Business Week* magazine headlined: "How long can these two tango?"

Mr Maughan is non-plussed even though Mr Weill has not given him any guarantees. Whatever his true feelings, he certainly can't go back. Soon his office and the whole trading floor in the World Trade Center will be subbed to another bank.

PAUL RIEVEZ

Hambros rejects revised offer by Fishers

By MARIANNE CUPREY
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

HAMBROS, the troubled merchant bank, has rejected a revised £84 million offer by Fishers International, the loss adjuster, for its controlling stake in Hambros Insurance Services. Fishers was undaunted, saying it would look "elsewhere" for acquisitions.

Kevin Kenny, Fishers' chief executive, said he was disappointed that Hambros had rejected "our rational offer".

Institutional investors of both companies are understood to be concerned that Hambros had declined to restart talks after Fishers' initial approach in July. Analysis said Hambros felt it would face more pressure to dismantle other parts of its empire had it agreed to the deal.

The announcement damped demand for Hambros shares, which rose just 14p to 227p in a market where Barclays leapt more than 11p. Fishers fell 1p to 215p and HIS from 111p to 101p.

Fishers, valued at £27 million, was offering the merchant bank Hambros, which holds 52 per cent of HIS's equity, a total of 128.7p per share, valuing the company at £84 million. However, Hambros rejected the terms, and Fishers announced it would not be putting the proposal to the board and shareholders of HIS for their consideration.

Nicholas Page, HIS managing director, said: "This approach was highly opportunistic. I am pleased this period of uncertainty can now be brought to an end." He added Fishers' proposals would have had a "very serious and substantial adverse impact on the HIS Group businesses and Fishers were informed of these concerns."

Safety firm chief quits

PETER HALL resigned as chief executive of Industrial Control, the oil and chemical safety systems group, after it announced a 21 per cent fall in full-year pre-tax profits to £4.4 million (£5.6 million) and cut its final dividend from 2.1p to 0.5p, blaming low profit margins and development costs. David Lindsay, currently finance director, will succeed him. Earnings were 6.09p a share (9.03p). Total dividend is 2p (3.6p), payable on November 21. The shares fell 78p to 65p.

Jourdan seeks £5m

THOMAS JOURDAN, the Corby, Northamptonshire, trouser-press company chaired by David Abell, is raising £5.07 million via a rights issue. The fund raising was announced as Jourdan disclosed a pre-tax loss of £1.2 million for the six months to June 30 after net exceptional charges of £544,000 against restructuring. Losses were 6.3p a share. There is no dividend. As a result of the restructuring and change of year-end there are no comparable figures for last year's first half.

Beckett blocks GU

MARGARET BECKETT, President of the Board of Trade, yesterday barred General Utilities, the UK arm of Generale des Eaux, the French utility, from exerting its full voting rights in Mid Kent Water. The move came after a redemption of preference shares increased its holding in Mid Kent from 19.5 per cent to 24.2 per cent. That took its influence beyond the level set by the Government in 1991 to safeguard the number of water companies under independent control.

Gieves slips into the red

GIEVES, the retail group that owns Knickerbox, reported a loss before tax of £147,000 (£278,000 profit) in the six months to July 31 on sales up from £9.6 million to £10.3 million. The half-year dividend has been cut from 0.75p to 0.40p. Gieves said: "Subject to the obvious uncertainties that surround the Christmas trading period at Gieves & Hawkes and Knickerbox the loss incurred in the first half should be eliminated." The shares fell 1p to 48p.

Boeing to lift capacity

BOEING, the aircraft manufacturer, plans to more than double capacity, increasing output to 48 aircraft a month from just over 18. Phil Condit, the company's chairman, said: "Earlier this month Boeing, which is the main competitor to Airbus Industrie, the European consortium, was forced to delay delivery of 12 aircraft because of parts shortages, a stretched supplier base and an influx of new employees. Yesterday Mr Condit said these problems would be overcome by April."

Electrophoretics slides

ELECTROPHORETICS, the AIM-listed medical diagnostics research company, reported a pre-tax loss of £760,883 (£676,756 loss) in the six months to June 30. The loss reflects the increased coverage of research but remains in line with budget projections. The loss per share deepened from 1.04p to 1.05p. There will be no dividend. Directors said they were confident that sub-licensing agreements to be confirmed before the end of 1997 will transform the company. The shares rose 3p to 41p.

Officials aim to create banking super union

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A BANKING super union representing up to 250,000 workers may be formed by the end of next year after talks between the three main finance unions.

The move comes as Bifu and UNIFI yesterday gave warning of a likely mandate next week for strike action at Barclays in a dispute over pay and conditions.

Bifu, UNIFI and the National-West Staff Association said a merger to form a giant finance union, which must go through lengthy rounds of consultation, would "end decades of rivalry" and provide a unified voice to fight job insecurity and "attacks on pay". Ballots

Kirk leaves Cooper

ED KIRK, the embattled chief executive of Frederick Cooper, the housewares and coatings group, has abruptly left the company in the middle of his three-year contract. Mr Kirk, who was paid £200,000 a year, will receive compensation (Chris Ayres writes).

Shares in Frederick Cooper have fallen from 43.5p to 11.5p over 12 months, wiping out £200,000 from the value of Mr Kirk's holding in the company.

Geoff Gahan, non-executive chairman, will take control until a new chief executive is found.



Toad set to break even

By CHRIS AYRES

TOAD, the car security company which gave free shares to Noel Edmonds in return for publicity, claimed yesterday it would break even by the end of this year, despite reporting deeper pre-tax losses for the year to March 31, from £2.3 million to £5.2 million.

The company, founded and chaired by Chris Evans, the biotechnology entrepreneur, also announced the proposed

acquisition of two rivals, Laserline and Sigma, for a combined total of £1.6 million in cash and shares.

Toad said it was recovering well after its share price crash last year from 117.5p to 27.5p, with a new management team. It added that its flagship product, an anti-theft tracking device which can be hidden almost anywhere inside a car, was expected to be on sale by the end of next year.

Dr Evans said: "Trading in the current year has been very encouraging with turnover and gross margins improving significantly."

The company also reported a 60 per cent rise in turnover from £3 million to £4.8 million, with losses per share up from 16.98p to 26.31p. No dividend will be paid. The closed 25p up at 30p.

Tempus, page 31

BA to sell division to Americans

British Airways plans to sell its Wheels and Brakes business to AlliedSignal Aerospace of California. Allied will compete from a number of rival bidders to be selected as the prospective bidder and the two companies expect a definitive agreement to be completed by the end of the year.

The business provides a maintenance and supply service at Heathrow and employs 65 people of whom 50 will transfer to Allied.

The remainder have agreed to take a severance payment or early retirement. BA expects to sign a ten-year contract with Allied for the overhaul of its aircraft.

Dividend up

MediaKey, the training and publishing group, reported pre-tax profits of £613,000 in the six months to June 30 compared with £802,000 for the nine months to June 30, 1996. The half-year dividend is 0.40p (0.375p) out of basic earnings of 0.7p (1.7p). Operating profits before costs were £1.1 million (£844,000). The shares were unchanged at 40p.

SMH ahead

Sinclair Montrouge Healthcare reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £203,900 (£193,800) in the six months to June 30 on sales of £7 million (£1.7 million). Earnings per share slipped from 1.53p to 1.03p. The group has not yet paid a dividend.

New Deal post

Valerie Scoular, director of customer service at British Airways, is to join the Government's New Deal taskforce to reduce youth unemployment.

Corroon expands with German deal

By MARTIN BARROW

WILLIS CORROON, the UK insurance broker, is to take an initial 30 per cent stake in one of Germany's largest brokers, it was announced yesterday.

Under the terms of the agreement Willis Corroon

could eventually become the controlling shareholder in Jaspers Wuppertal Industrie Assekuranz, a newly formed broker that has emerged from the rapid consolidation of the sector in Germany.

The German broker is the result of the merger of Jaspers Industrie Assekuranz (JIA), of Frankfurt, the country's fourth largest, and Wuppertal & Co Assekuranzmakler, of Bremen, the number six in the market. Willis Corroon al-

ready owns 20 per cent of Wuppertal.

Deutsche Bank, which at present has a 20 per cent stake in JIA, is expected to take just below 20 per cent of the new, larger company.

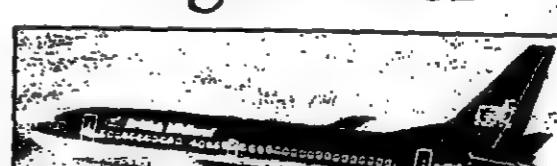
The majority will be owned by private shareholders. The new company will have 650 staff and turnover of more than DM130 million (£45 million).

Talks are under way about the repurchase of a 20 per cent stake in JIA that is held by Alexander & Alexander Services.

Business links between the two companies will be severed after the takeover of AIA by Amcor Corporation, which already owns Jauch & Huebener, Germany's largest broker.

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Why does Nomura, Japan's mighty broking house, want to own 6,100 British pubs, 57,000 Army houses and a third of our trains?

The answer lies with Guy Hands. He is the rather shambolic financier who had the gall to doorstep Nomura clutching a business plan three years ago. He was working for Goldman Sachs at the time. Hands persuaded Takumi Shiba, Nomura's then London banking boss, that he should be allowed to use the bank's vast capital base to take assets onto its own books and then lay off that risk by securitisation. Shiba bought the idea, and the new category of creative financial engineering was born.

Today Hands rules a fiefdom of 70 professionals in Nomura's Principle Finance Group. It has completed \$1 billion (£6.8 billion) worth of deals, the latest being this week's £1.2 billion takeover of *Entrepreneur*, the country's biggest, but troubled, pub chain. In a week or so it may also have William Hill's string of betting shops in its portfolio.

If imitation is the highest compliment, then Hands must be feeling smug. Not only is the exercise proving extremely profitable for Nomura, but every bank worth its salt is now playing this asset game (at least 35). He points out, though, that the long-term Japanese philosophy gives Nomura the edge.

Hands made his own conversion while working on a mobile home

Risk-taker puts Nomura's money where his mouth is

IN THE HOT SEAT

GUY HANDS
CV

Born 1959.
Judd Grammar School,
Tonbridge.
1978 PPE Mansfield
College, Oxford.
1982 Goldman Sachs.
1994 Nomura.
Now: managing director of
Nomura International's
Principle Finance Group

while waiting to go up to Oxford, the young Hands spent weeks wandering icy North London streets selling encyclopaedia. He still remembers the 459 doors slammed in his face, but he sold one set.

Hands, bored by selling eurobonds, had tried to sell his securitisation idea to Goldman but it dared not tread, so with his permission, he went out hawking his idea. Selling was not new. In his gap-year,

deal for Goldman in the sweating heat of Arizona, "It was 120 degrees in the shade, I had a thick English suit on and I lost the deal because the rival bank was prepared to take the risk. I suddenly felt that working as an agent I never put my balls on the line and that this was a lower form of existence than if I put my money — or the bank's — where my mouth was."

A banker with a soul? Surely not. Hands gets excited now. "Remember that *Brothers* programme in the Seventies? They were merchant bankers who put money in real companies. They cared about the business."

Now Hands gets the chance to get his hands mucky — he is on the board of several of the companies in which Nomura has invested. "It's like being a headmaster. It shows management that we really care. That is empowering for some, but some find it terrifying."

Hands, bored by selling eurobonds, had tried to sell his securitisation idea to Goldman but it dared not tread, so with his permission, he went out hawking his idea. Selling was not new. In his gap-year,

for himself, reading acres of propls for prospectuses and business plans. "I think everything I do is driven by the fact that I didn't work hard at school but I must achieve. I would have liked to have been a writer or even an actor — but my pronunciation is bad too, so instead I decided to make money."

And money he makes. Hands swallows hard when asked how many millions, so does the PR woman who is taping. They swallow in unison and nod and say it is a house rule not to comment. Rumourmongers reckon he may have pocketed as much as £12 million last year.

But he doesn't like spending money — his ruffled, slightly overgrown choirboy appearance and nondescript suit are evidence of that. He lives modestly in Sevenoaks with four children, a Classics-educated wife, a black labrador and drives a Volvo — not the picture of the usual investment banker who rolls off the Goldman sausage machine.

This year he will have taken only ten days' leave and after 14-hour days he takes work home too. He does admit to the occasional 26-hour flight to Hawaii for holidays. "It's the only place they can't get me." Finally he reveals a liking for fine wines, and a small cellar and, when his wife allows, a passion for extremely loud punk music.

MARGARETA PAGANO



Some say Guy Hands earned £12 million last year

The 'Ed and Charlie show' looks behind the spin at the Treasury

Janet Bush
examines
where real
power lies in
economic
policymaking

It was a taste of things to come. On April 3, the day that Labour launched its election manifesto, Ed Balls, Gordon Brown's chief economic adviser, gave a graphic picture of how the Treasury mandarins would be expected to bend to the will of the new Chancellor.

He was talking, intense but smiling with the excitement of it all, to a fly-on-the-wall documentary crew from Scottish Television about the windfall tax. It was far more than an idea, he said. Brown and his team meant to arrive at the Treasury on May 2 with the legislation drafted, the legal position sewn up, all the numbers crunched, the documents prepared. They would "arrive on May 2, drop it on the Permanent Secretary's desk and say 'Now, implement it'."

Scottish Television has made two films to be shown on the coming two Tuesdays. The first follows Brown's team in the



Charlie Whelan and Gordon Brown tell the press what to think. Their methods will be seen in two documentaries

final months of the election campaign to the triumphant morning of May 2. The second, which started filming only hours later from inside the Treasury as the new Chancellor was clapped in by ecstatic civil servants, provides us with an astonishingly frank glimpse of Brown's team in power.

The Treasury has never been

subject to such outside scrutiny. The mandarins used to the subtle business of private ad-

vice being given behind closed doors, were pretty dismayed when they realised the extent of the intrusion. But the new Chancellor had given his personal permission to a documentary film-maker with whom he had worked during his days as a researcher at Scottish Television.

We are the Treasury is perhaps one of the riskier exercises undertaken by Brown in his drive for open government. Just as the Chancellor's coterie of special advisers and spin-doctors have been trying to play down persistent rumours of bad blood between them and the "official" Treasury and the Bank of England, the film threatens to lay all the sunburning hostility open to view.

Weeks before the film was due to be shown, enough was rumoured of its contents to have long-serving Treasury civil servants have been trying to play down persistent rumours of bad blood between them and the "official" Treasury and the Bank of England on flustered alert. The title *We are the Treasury* vividly sums up the dominant role now played in the life of the institution by the small team of advisers that the new Chancellor brought with him from Opposition. Ed Balls, once a leader writer for the *Financial Times* and now the Chancellor's chief economic adviser, and Charlie Whelan, his canny and combative press secretary, are omnipresent that it could as easily be called the "Ed and Charlie show".

The film takes us through Brown's dramatic first few weeks in office, including the momentous decision to give the

Bank of England independence and, within days, to strip away its supervisory powers. It was well documented at the time that Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, was upset with what he felt was the way the supervision news was sprung on him without proper consultation. It was also alleged — but never proven — that the special advisers wanted to use his public displeasure to ease him out of his job.

But the merest whiff that Mr George, popular in the City and regarded as a safe pair of hands, might be under threat was enough to mobilise the financial markets in his defence. The Governor seemed safe and Mervyn King, the Bank's director of economics and a trusted and true Bank insider, was appointed as one of two Deputy Governors.

This semi-public spat is now dismissed as history by the Chancellor's men. However, the discontent rumbling on for quite some time. Negotiations between the Bank and the Treasury on the drafting of the Bank of England Bill were so sour during one spell in the summer that there was talk of a virtual non-cooperation of a mood close to volcanic.

In the documentary, Ed Balls is believed to have been captured on camera being less than complimentary to the Governor in those early days. The hatchet may since have been buried, but Mr George is not likely to be comfortable for history to be rerun on film in such a public way. Nor are the Treas-

ury mandarins likely to thrill to a portrait of power so centralised in Mr Brown's private office. Many privately complain that they do not feel involved in policymaking, many are still licking their wounds from the loss of the power to decide interest rates and, with it, their jealousy guarded role of economic forecasting.

One of the most concrete manifestations of change is that the top-level post of Treasury chief economic adviser, currently held by Sir Alan Budd, is effectively being downgraded. Sir Alan has long been one of a triumvirate of grade two civil servants who serve under Sir Terry Burns, the Permanent Secretary.

Treasury insiders wonder whether there will be many takers for this job given Ed Balls's role. All of this has become a favourite focus for gossip in City dining rooms and Whitehall drinking holes. There is a measure of sheer fascination mixed with a quiescence about what it all means for the established pattern of power.

But the advent of this film portrayal, which will offer con-



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ED78 return for travel between 1 Nov - 31 Oct 1997. Passenger taxes, duties and security charges are not included. Limited availability. Other restrictions apply.

Here Dyke goes

IT IS known as the embourgeoisification of the terraces, the middle classes flocking to the football grounds. Everyone in the public eye has to have a favourite football team, in the same way that they need a favourite Spice Girl. A non-executive directorship has even more cachet than a season ticket — ask Ken Clarke, a man with years of experience of playing the common man and now a fixture in the directors' box at Nottingham Forest.

Latest recruit to the business of football is Greg Dyke, Manchester United fan man and boy — aren't they all? He is joining the United board as non-executive director. Dyke, 50, was chairman of ITV Sport, for four years, so he knows a bit about the game. United is on the point of signing a TV deal to create a dedicated channel for all those sods who need a daily helping of

their idols. Dyke is chairman and chief executive of Pearson Television. A marriage made in heaven. Except that the United deal is widely expected to be with BSkyB and Granada, and not with Pearson. And Dyke may not be there much longer, if rumours of a bust-up with Marjorie Scardino, Pearson chief executive, are true. And they are true.

DETAILS of a "refurbishment opportunity" — estate agent-speak for a clapped out old office block — reach me. Situated in sunny Lambeth, 270,000 sq ft, 21 storeys, with basement car parking. But does my memory fail me, or was Century House not once the headquarters of M16? That is the one we are allowed to know about, as against M16, whose existence, like the Post Office Tower, was once a state secret. The agents confirm it. Ideal for

THE
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CITY
DIARY

the booming flat market, what with all those sound-proofed rooms, and the funny aerials on the roof, would come in handy for satellite TV. Just one problem, the name. So, sort of, naff and millennial. My informant suggests Spuds Corner. I rather like Dunbuggin.

Own show

MORE news from the acronym-riden advertising group GGT. A few weeks ago I reported the resignation of Linda Kaplan-Thaler, the creative supremo at Weil, Rich Green, GGT's New York arm. GGT said Ms Kaplan-Thaler would stay as a consultant while she wrote an opera. Now it seems that she is doing neither. Instead she has formed her own agency, imaginatively called Kaplan-Thaler and Co, and clients are already following. More worries for poor Mike Greenlee, I fear.

Talking shop

I AM invited to the Royal Society of the Arts for a conference arranged by the Green Alliance. "Changing Consumer Choices" will debate how Government and industry can promote sustainable consumption, and how manufacturers and retailers can best

play their part in educating the consumer and saving the planet. A stellar cast list of speakers include Ruth Bjerregaard, whom you will all know as EU Commissioner for Environment. Nuclear Safety and Civil Protection and whose very existence, I can tell you, allows me to sleep easily in my bed. Plus Michael Meacher, our Environment Minister, and the heads of the UK Ecolabelling Board and the Energy Saving Trust. Just one thing missing. Not a single manufacturer, not one solitary retailer.

Flag waving

ADDING to the crowd at the summit of Mount Everest for next spring's climbing season is Lewis McNaught, head of UK retail at Gartmore. McNaught has a hidden agenda, though. Halfway up Everest is the flag of the fund manager Perpetual. McNaught intends to tear it down and replace it with his own.

MARTIN WALLER



Heat is on for computer chip manufacturer

Oliver August reports on a US federal investigation into Intel

JUDGMENT day may at last have dawned for Intel, the US microchip monopolist. For years it has been riding roughshod over market rules and used its dominant position to keep out competition. More than 80 per cent of computer chips worldwide come from the Intel stable. Few of its customers can afford to dismiss the Silicon Valley silicon by buying from one of its few and meagre rivals.

Computer manufacturers have repeatedly complained that Intel threatened punishment whenever the issue of competition came up. The chip shop's favoured weapon is to hint that delivery times for existing orders might slip. In the computer industry, where fashions are more short-lived than in the clothing trade, even short delays can be fatal while litigation will take years.

Downing Street apparently believed taking decisive control of the Treasury was an absolute must if Gordon Brown was to push through his radical agenda of new openness and modernisation of Whitehall's most powerful department. Successive Labour administrations always felt that their electoral Achilles' heel was economic and that they were always thwarted by the mandarins who had a visceral distrust of old Labour tax and spend policies, now resolutely junked.

Time and again, Labour governments responded by trying to establish alternative, more sympathetic economic power bases in an attempt to control what they often regarded as the malign influence of the Treasury: the Central Political Review Staff, the Department of Economic Affairs and the National Economic Development Council. All failed to secure a lasting power base. This time, Labour decided to take control from within to try to ensure that the mandarins are harnessed closely to the Chancellor's agenda.

There has been some resistance, particularly, it is believed, among senior Treasury officials. The sense of unease is, of course, partly a generational problem, although it is thought that Sir Terry Burns, perennially rumoured to be contemplating life outside the Treasury, wants to stay and will. And many junior officials are enthused by work on a new agenda, excited to be part of the process of modernisation.

It is to the credit of a determined and confident new Chancellor that Scottish Television has been allowed a fly-on-the-wall view of this tumultuous chapter in the life of the Treasury, even if it means hurting a few well-established egos.

Out of the Shadwell is shown on ITV on Tuesday, September 30, at 10.40pm. We are the Treasury is shown in the same slot on Tuesday, October 7.

The Internet features a whole magazine, frequently updated and read by eight million people, devoted to slating Intel. Fury was ignited by the constant re-engineering of products and swapping around of gimmicks. Intel, along with Microsoft, its soft-

ware brother, stands accused of forcing consumers into a vicious circle of having to buy new products every year just to stay level with technology. Everyone who has bought a PC or laptop in recent years will have shared the experience of possessing the best computer available at Christmas, and having an ugly piece of dinosaur equipment in the new year. New machines are suddenly twice as fast, four times more powerful and infinitely more compatible. Crusading on these people's behalf is Jason Walker. He writes in the latest edition of *ED Monthly News*: "As many new users and upgraders are opening the boxes to their brand new Pentium II-based systems, another group of people sit angrily as Intel has shut the door on the hopes that Pentium Pro users will be able to upgrade to the new Pentium II. We must ask the question of what is a reasonable timeframe for a standard to be supported, what kind of migration path should be available and when, and what incremental upgrade is just too small to be useful."

So, public criticism has failed to dent Intel's prospects. Its shares are trading at an astronomical price/earnings ratio of 25. A 1991 FTC investigation ended in a whitewash for the company. Since then its competitors have strengthened slightly.

Earlier this week *ED Monthly News* reported: "Towards the end of the year, both Cyrix and Advanced Micro Devices will start to unveil new chip technologies that could well raise the competitive pressure on chip giant Intel." Rival chips already come close to Intel's performance and cost up to 30 percent less. Computer manufacturers such as IBM and Compaq have agreed to use these chips in their low-cost consumer products.

But the sprouting competition has done little to sour Wall Street's love affair with Intel. Over the past year its shares rose from \$40 to \$100. On Tuesday, Intel won another endorsement. DLJ, the investment bank with Wall Street's highest-rated research arm, upgraded its Intel rating.

NEWS

Hague ready to abandon peers

■ William Hague is preparing to abandon the Tories' longstanding opposition to Labour plans to strip hereditary peers of their voting rights.

The unexpected move, which would mark the biggest policy shift since Mr Hague became leader, would put him on a new collision course with the Tory old guard who have always defended the hereditary principle. Pages 1, 22

EMU reports help stock market surge

■ Reports claiming that the Government is preparing for an early entry into a European single currency pushed the stock market to a record high, but caused the pound to plunge. The FTSE 100 closed up 160.8, at 5262.3. Pages 1, 21, 31

War crimes charges

A 77-year-old retired British Rail worker has been charged with war crimes in Nazi-occupied Eastern Europe, police said. Page 1

Tobacco ban plea

The Government is to press for a Europe-wide ban on the advertising of tobacco. Page 2

Assisi earthquakes

Two earthquakes in central Italy killed at least nine people and badly damaged priceless frescoes in Assisi. Page 3

Burglary with violence

A self-taught antiques expert who used violence to force his accomplice to burgle victims was jailed for 20 years. Page 5

Two Fat Ladies

America has greeted the arrival of *Two Fat Ladies* with the polite, nervous smile of someone offered an unidentifiable, pungent forkful of a foreign cuisine. Pages 16, 23

Vision Page 13

Labour goes for a gay old time

The Labour leadership has approved a gay night at the party conference hotel where Tony Blair and the rest of the Cabinet are staying. The event will rival the more raucous attractions of the traditional Welsh and Scottish evenings. Page 1

Trouble on two wheels

Anthony Adams was fined for cycling "furiously" through Cambridge — and cyclists are under the spotlight. Page 13

Party time for party

What a difference an election makes. Next week's Labour Party conference has become the most in demand social and political gathering of the year. Page 18

Winnie's victory

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela has won the right to give evidence in public at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Pages 16, 23

Sumatra crash

All 234 people on board a Garuda Indonesia Airbus A300 airliner died when it crashed in thick haze on Sumatra. Page 17

Fugitive killer held

Ben Macintyre unfolds the saga of an American hippie-era guru who is fighting extradition. Page 20

Labour goes for a gay old time

The Labour leadership has approved a gay night at the party conference hotel where Tony Blair and the rest of the Cabinet are staying. The event will rival the more raucous attractions of the traditional Welsh and Scottish evenings. Page 1



Tetsuo the hippopotamus examines his Japanese audience yesterday from the safety of his water-filled glass tank in Tennoji Zoo in Osaka

NEWS FEATURES

English vineyards: English wine-makers are predicting a great vintage after a long summer of almost perfect conditions. Page 8

Double role: Since the general election, Tony Blair's wife has had to be two people at once: Cherie Booth the Queen's Counsel, and Cherie Blair, First Lady to an increasingly presidential Prime Minister. Page 19

Ulster troubles: Mo Mowlam doesn't think the Rev Ian Paisley will come to the talks, "but that doesn't mean you don't try". Page 21

OBITUARIES

Simon Jenkins: I am against primitive punishments. I am against them whether the victim is male or female, British or foreign. Page 27

Tina Haines: Last month, Labour marked 100 days in office. It did so in a carnival atmosphere. William Hague endured a rather less rapturous anniversary. One can only hope that Fiona will have a better honeymoon. Page 22

LETTERS

Tony reform: relevance of the Church; the importance of inquiries. Page 23

COLUMNS

Building societies: Almost half of Northern Rock Building Society members have sold their shares before the start of dealing. Page 27

Takeover bid: Shares in T&N, the components group laid low by asbestos claims, soared 60p to 242.5p after a takeover approach from Federal Mogul. Page 27

Markets: The FTSE 100 index rose 160.8 points, to close at 5262.3. The sterling index fell from 101.8 to 99.7 after a fall from \$1.6263 to \$1.6053 and from DM2.8750 to DM2.8324. Page 31

SPORTS

Golf: Jesper Parnevik levelled the score at 2-2 after the opening fourballs in the Ryder Cup. Page 33

Cricket: Phil Tufnell, the England spin bowler, faces disciplinary action after failing to supply a specimen for a drug test. Page 41

Tennis: Pete Sampras reached the semi-finals of the Grand Slam Cup with an easy victory over Jonas Bjorkman. Page 40

HANDICRAFTS

Peter Brooks. Page 22

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David Blunkett: Labour's Education Secretary is ready to fight. Page 8

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Paul's rage: Mike Tattenbaum finds Paul Draper railing against the world. Page 12

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Vision

Full seven-day Radio & TV guide

Two Fat Ladies: Page 13

Paul Hoggart. Page 2

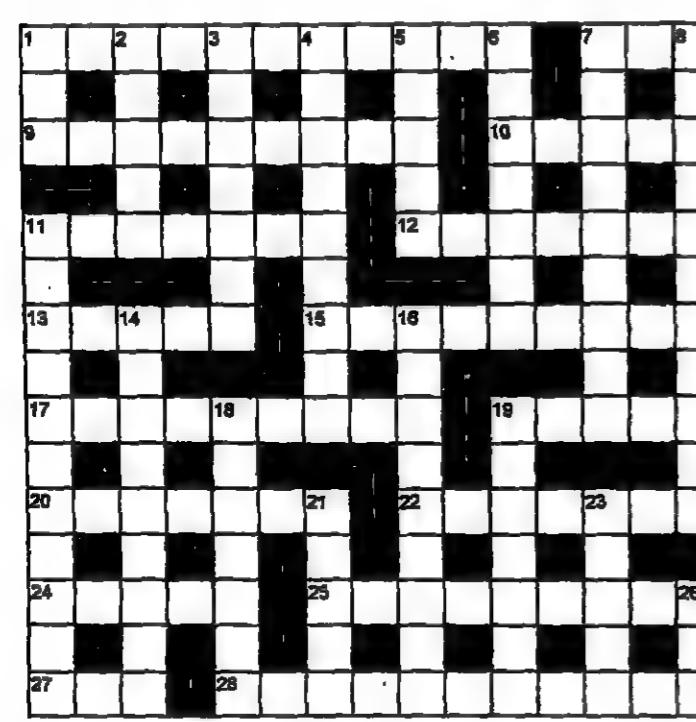
The Arts: The ENO production. 10pm, BBC2, today

Europe
pro
level

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,596

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address: _____



ACROSS

- 1 A strong company needs backing for a musical? Yes: (11).
- 2 Glossy black spout (3).
- 3 Poi plant - the alternative judge's put in (9).
- 10 One in bed reciting numbers of sheep (5).
- 11 Looking to compete with political group (7).
- 12 A person I'd announced as a literary giant (3-4).
- 13 Very well-conceived sort of prize has a twist in the tail (5).
- 15 Giving more in a half-game, one about to be over (6).
- 17 Turning out part of army, head of state has little time (9).
- 19 A dim recollection about start of Handel's 'Messiah' (5).
- 20 Case in which PM once put clothes (7).
- 22 A minor exploit: Exploit a bit of advice, making comeback (3-13).
- 24 Friend has no right to make one shudder (5).
- 25 Cocktail with a kick - sick female comes staggering in (5-4).
- 27 Hairy beast has girl in a spin (3).

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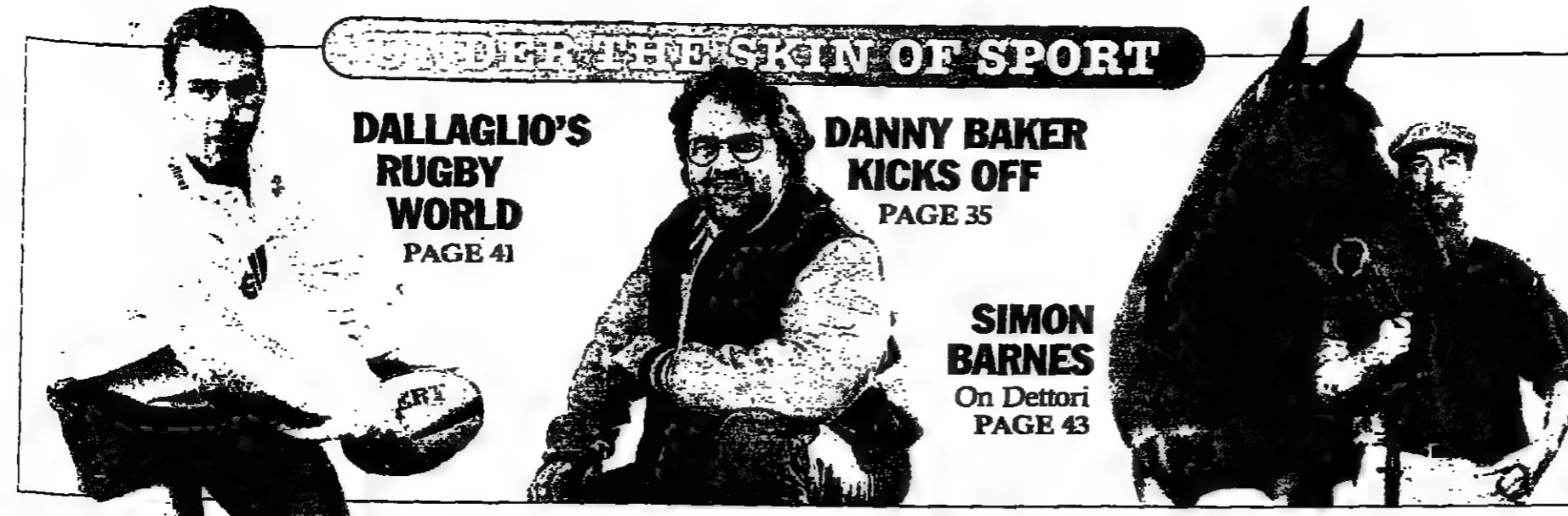
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THE SUNDAY TIMES
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GO

Can you do your weekly
shop on a bike?
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THE SUNDAY TIMES
SATURDAY SPORT

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27 1997

Europeans
produce
level best

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, AT VALDERRAMA

EUROPE and the United States were as evenly matched as anybody could want when darkness ended the rain-delayed first day of the 32nd Ryder Cup here yesterday. After the morning four-balls had finished 2-2, the afternoon foursomes were perfectly balanced, too, with the score standing at 3-3 when play was suspended.

Colin Montgomerie and a clearly inspired Bernhard Langer took revenge for being beaten by Tiger Woods and Mark O'Meara in the morning four-balls by storming to victory by 5 and 3 in the foursomes. Montgomerie was a man transformed after a brief stop for lunch. His erratic play of the morning was gone and, perhaps because of this, he smiled a lot. He and Langer were five under par when they beat Woods and O'Meara in the gathering gloom.

Hardly had the applause for this victory died down than Scott Hoch and Lee Janzen survived a rally by Costantino Rocca and José María Olazábal. The Europeans won the 17th with a birdie but, at the 18th, Olazábal drove into the cork trees that line the hole and the ball bizarrely ended in a waste bin. After dropping the ball, Rocca hit an heroic second to within ten feet. Olazábal missed, Hoch holed and the US pair, who had never been behind in the match, had won by the slenderest possible margin.

As the day wore on, so it became more and more typical of the closeness of modern Ryder Cups. There were many moments when it looked as though the US might edge into a clear lead, but again and again Europe fought back.

Like a general in a medieval battle, Severiano Ballesteros, the Europe captain, was to be seen roaming the course wearing an earpiece that told him what was going on elsewhere. He was far more conspicuous in his presence than Tom Kite, the US captain, and was fulfilling his promise that he would be a hands-on captain.

In the morning four-balls, the fearsome Valderrama course was humbled. Olazábal and Rocca were a generous six under par in defeating Davis Love III and Phil Mickelson, while Jesper Parnevik and Per-Ulrik Johansson, despite taking an

excruciating five hours and 42 minutes — the longest four-ball match in Ryder Cup history — went round in 64, to claim a famous victory.

After lunch Kite brought in fresh faces, pairing Hoch with Janzen and Justin Leonard with Jeff Maggert, thereby giving every one of his team a game on the first day. Ballesteros sent out all but one of the men that he had used in the four-balls for the afternoon foursomes. Johansson was

RYDER CUP '97

EUROPE 11-11 USA 11-11
SKY SPORTS 2: Today: Live coverage 7am to 8pm. Tomorrow: Live coverage 10am to 6pm. Today and tomorrow: Highlights 7pm to 9pm and 12.30am to 2.30am.
BBC: Today and tomorrow: Highlights 8pm to 10pm.
RADIO 1 LIVE: Today 8.30am to 7pm. Tomorrow: 2.30am to 7pm.

Tiger by the tail 34
Awesome foursomes 34
Ideal couple 34
Rob Hughes 34, 35

dropped for Ignacio Garrido.

Staying true to seven of his players was a decision that may have been forced upon Ballesteros by Ian Woosnam's poor form, or it may have been his choice. It may backfire over the course of this event. For now it is sufficient to say that two of Ballesteros's oldest players, Langer, who is a few days past his fortieth birthday, and Nick Faldo, who was 40 in July, seemed inspired by the occasion.

Faldo, in particular, was like a man reborn and one stroke in the afternoon foursomes demonstrated how much better he was playing than he had in so many strokeplay events this year. A most delicate bunker shot on the 7th in the foursomes set up a victory on that hole to level the match against Leonard and Maggert. On the 8th it was Faldo's shot to no more than two feet that enabled his partner, Lee Westwood to make a birdie and take a one-hole lead.



Parnevik salutes the putt that gave Europe a share of the four-balls yesterday at Valderrama

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Blurring the
image of
a charmless
man of steel

This week at Valderrama, Nick Faldo wondered aloud how the course would look with 30,000 people on it. "There were only 4,000 out there today," he said. "Was it 4,000?" "More like 8,000," someone volunteered. Faldo put his hands behind his head and laughed. "Well, 4,000 went round with my match."

At that moment of pure typical bumptiousness, I realised why Faldo continues to inspire such ambivalence after 21 years in the game. You can't love this man, because he's charmless. But at the same time, he's a hero. Faldo's admirable sporting qualities include toughness and pluck and fantastic talent. He has won three Open Championships and three Masters, and this is his eleventh Ryder Cup. Not surprising that you'd rather be one of his 4,000 than anybody else's.

Around Ryder Cup followers, of course, you only have to say the words "one down and two to play," and people go all misty-eyed, because at the last match, in 1995, such was the singles position from which Faldo recovered to birdie the 18th, beat Curtis Strange, turn the match and earn the undying love of Severiano Ballesteros. Faldo got up and down from 90 yards and it was fab.

But if "one down and two to play" paints an acceptable picture of the man, the words

LYNNE TRUSS

"midlife crisis" get a less positive response, because it sounds judgmental. But why is a midlife crisis a disgrace? It happens to most people — sometimes it's even a good thing — and, anyway, Faldo has all the symptoms. In the past two years he has left his wife, turned 40 and chosen to live in the United States with a youthful girlfriend who has a silly made-up name beginning with B and who looks like Miss America. Did you know that when a man leaves his wife, in 75 per cent of cases it's for a woman with longer hair?

That all this upheaval is reflected in Faldo's golf is understandable. Form in this sport is so precarious that the Chaos Theory might have been built on it: a butterfly beats its wings in the Southern Ocean and Tiger Woods misses a putt at Valderrama. Faldo's concentration is legendary, yet his tendency at the Open this year to consider each shot as if silently reciting the Lord's Prayer (and then throwing in *The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam*) must betray something of his state of mind.

Nevertheless, Faldo strikes a glamorous figure. Being built for athletics and six feet (or is it 7ft 2in?) is hardly a disadvantage. Between the clubhouse and the 1st tee, he strides at breathtaking speed through the adoring fans, randomly snatching proffered pens and baseball caps and signing them. If the fan wants his hat and pen back, he must canter beyond the bystanders, keeping pace. Faldo has a large face and looks like Harrison Ford. Moreover, when dressed in the navy blouson of the Europe Ryder Cup team, he looks like Harrison Ford in a really good cop movie.

No one knows yet who will be the hero of this Ryder Cup, but if it comes down to mental resilience, midlife crisis or not, Faldo is unlikely to let his team down. I wish he'd halved his first match yesterday with an heroic putt, but I'm sure he wishes it more. Tom Lehman says you can tell from Faldo's body language that he believes he's the only player on the course — but at the Ryder Cup it's different. He just knows he's the most important player on the course.

Style of United States challenge underlined by authority of complementary partnership . . .

Woods forces Montgomerie to cut up rough

FROM MICHAEL CALVIN AT VALDEERRAMA

TIGER WOODS uncloaked with a languid grace that disengaged the power generated by his swing. He looked into the distance, saw his drive describe a gentle arc into the heart of the 5th fairway and laughed. It seemed ungracious to inquire whether he was being intimidated by Colin Montgomerie.

Europe's leading player, next on to the elevated tee, carved his drive into deep rough. His eyes bulged, as if he had swallowed a lazy, late-summer wasp, and he kicked out at fallen leaves from the cork trees that framed the nearby waterfall. It seemed indecent to ask his opinion of Tiger's temperament.

Woods was enjoying his Ryder Cup debut hugely. He had just made his first birdie, to give himself and Mark O'Meara a lead that they never lost. The only birdie Montgomerie and Bernhard Langer made in their four-ball match yesterday was conceded to them on the 16th green, when a 30-foot putt by O'Meara guaranteed the Americans a 3 and 2 victory.

Inevitably, a television interviewer immediately cornered Woods and brought up Montgomerie's credentials as a cheerleader. Was the win a direct response to the Scot's strictures about the suitability of his game to Valderrama's verdant acres? Tiger took his lead from his partner, who was on the other side of the camera, shaking his head with theatrical intensity.

"No," Woods said, firmly, with a forbidding glare. "We just showed up and played our own game. We hit some loose shots but got away with them because we made some key birdies. It was just a case of grinding it out." O'Meara beamed, like the surrogate father he has quickly become.

Montgomerie was not available for comment. He commanded a buggy to the practice ground, where his wife delivered a hasty sandwich as he prepared for the afternoon rematch in the foursomes. Since he had spent more time in the trees than Valderrama's resident nature consultant, the self-imposed punishment was entirely logical.

Woods, meanwhile, had acquired a bodyguard, who escorted him through the crowds to the United States team-room. It was a stark reminder of the flip side of fame. He will never have the



CUP DETAILS
TODAY

Morning
Foursomes: To complete: N Faldo and L Westwood (2 up) v J Leonard and J Maggert (after 15 holes); J Parnevik and I Garrido v T Lehman and P Mickelson (level after 12)

4 foursomes
Afternoon — 4 foursomes
Morning — 12 singles

luxury of being judged solely by the simple values of sport. He is a symbol of cultural diversity, a commodity.

At times yesterday, he had the demeanour of a child released on a long-awaited school trip. When O'Meara hit a perfect eight-iron close to the flag at the 5th, Woods held his hand as they walked down the fairway. They live close to each other, in Orlando, Florida, and regularly travel together on the USPGA Tour.

"We asked to play with each other," O'Meara said. "We just get on well. He's a good kid, a good friend, and I have tremendous respect for his game. He has an unbelievable talent and realises he is going to be around for a long time. He's been telling me how



Woods and O'Meara toast victory on the 10th

much this means to him for the last year."

There is an endearing innocence to some aspects of his behaviour. He gives strangers the courtesy of addressing them as "mister" when introduced and was suitably respectful when former President Bush announced himself on the practice ground. "We're sure gonna have some fun today," the politician burbled. "Yessir," came the reply.

But the moment Bush left, to renew acquaintances with the Commander of the Sixth Fleet, Woods retreated into himself. He conspicuously failed to join in the high-five good luck rituals of his colleagues before play began, and, under pressure, his language became obscene.

The match was good-natured — Montgomerie chatted idly to O'Meara about airline schedules on the first tee — but Woods only registered Langer's presence on the 10th fairway, when it was almost over. His most colourful outburst, after he had put a nine-iron out of bounds at the back of the 13th green, was greeted by a stunned silence.

The galleries generally chose to utter such inanities as "Go on Tiger. Chew 'em up and spit 'em out." By the time Montgomerie got around to eating his sandwich, on the 9th fairway during the afternoon round, the European pair had clearly digested the uncomfortable lessons of the morning.

Woods was playing poorly and he and O'Meara were three down at the turn, on route to a 5 and 3 defeat. His character had changed, along with the momentum of the match. Again he looked a callow, sullen, youth.

"I've grown up a lot in the last 12 months," Woods said.

"This has been the longest year ever, man. I've had to change as a person, because I've had to deal with so many things that a 21-year-old doesn't normally have to deal with. That's all part of the challenge of accepting I'm a somebody out here."

Life's little lessons can be harsh. Had Woods' parents been around when the gloom descended on Valderrama yesterday evening, they might have reminded him of a couple of homilies. Pride invariably precedes a fall, and he who laughs last, like Montgomerie, tends to laugh longest.

Severiano Ballesteros is no longer the only one losing sleep over this Ryder Cup. The ferocity of the storm that blew in from Africa yesterday, lashing the coastline below Valderrama and dislocating everyone's expectations, may have seemed made for the Europe captain, who, diceing with his team strategy and his pairings as he once did with the elements of his own game, came up against the beacon of calm that is his opposite number, Tom Kite.

For hours their attempts to take a decisive lead for Europe or the United States were tossed in a tempest of a different kind: what can captains really do when they are in the hands of a dozen other men, when it is the talents, the temperaments and the stamina when exposed to fierce competition that distinguishes individuals under duress?

From the very beginning the different leadership styles were evident. Ballesteros, discharging restless energy, stalked the 40 yards between the practice green and the 1st tee, fidgeting, swivelling mercifully at an insect that dared to settle on the nap of his neck, talking, cajoling, touching and settling himself into the role of compulsive media star.

You can take the club out of such a golfer's hands, but you cannot rub away the charisma, the hypnotic attraction between man and the camera that, in this case, was transmitting his efforts to 700 million viewers worldwide.

They were to see snatched moments of Ballesteros's effervescence, the manner in which he finds it impossible to leave alone the momentum of his team. Rarer would have



On the air: Kite, the United States captain, stays in touch with developments around the Valderrama course

Kite sought background rather than limelight

there was gratitude between them.

At the 17th, the hole redesigned by Ballesteros himself, Parnevik and Jesper Parnevik on the 12th green. Ballesteros was one of the Spanish captain's wild cards, his own selection, but did he trust him entirely? From a distance of a few yards it seemed not, as Ballesteros hectored the Swede, who subsequently two-putted the hole. Intensity poured forth from the captain's mouth, fire ignited in the Swede's eyes; and yet, by the end of the four-ball,

playing captain. He admitted that Lehman, holding a 60-yard pitch at the 15th and again putting the pressure on at the 18th, had fired his own competitive urge. He spoke of his partner, Johansson, knowing him so well that they could pull each other back from the rhythm. We are as we started.

Ballesteros, though he surprisingly replaced Johansson with Ignacio Garrido, thereby increasing the Latin tempo in the late afternoon foursomes, spoke of the great comeback of the Swedes, which he admired as much as he did

the comeback of Costantino Rocca and José María Olazábal. "It is a pity," Ballesteros said with a chilling directness, "that Colin [Montgomerie] and Bernhard [Langer] were not able to catch the rhythm. We are as we

started.

He was hardly that. By 5 o'clock in the afternoon, with hours still to go, Ballesteros had grown a heavy stubble, which itself had rivers of sweat and, together with the black hair matted on to his scalp, showed how oppressive the weather, as much as everything else, remained.

Kite, on the other hand, rarely looked unruffled: a little peevish when shots were dropped or leads were surrendered.

Continued on facing page

RESULTS FROM VALDEERRAMA

EUROPE 3 UNITED STATES 3

Europe names first:

J M Olazábal and C Rocca bt D Love and P McAlister 1 hole
C Montgomerie and B Langer lost to T Woods and M O'Meara 3 and 2
N Faldo and L Westwood lost to F Garrido and J Parnevik 2 and 1
J Lehman and P J Furyk bt T Lehman and J Furyk 1 hole

RESULT: Europe 2 United States 2

Foursomes
Langer and Montgomerie bt Woods and O'Meara 5 and 3
Olazábal and Westwood lost to S Hoch and J Janzen 1 hole
Faldo and Westwood 2 up on J Leonard and J Maggert (after 15 holes)
Montgomerie and Langer lost to T Woods and M O'Meara 3 and 2
RESULT: Europe 1 United States 1 with two games to finish because of bad light yesterday evening

LATEST ODDS: Europe 64, United States 47, Tie 10-1 (William Hill)

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Trusting partner to be awesome at foursomes

Europe should have an advantage over the United States in foursomes, says

Mel Webb, but history shows otherwise

score will be the one that every other shot is an effete pastime, a game for old men, perfectly all right for the linkies but not at all the sort of activity that an all-American boy should be caught pursuing in daylight or without his parents' permission.

Consequently, a self-perpetuating myth has evolved that because Americans are not fond of this form of the game, they are no good at it in competitions such as the Ryde

der Cup. Wrong. They may regard it with slight contempt and in an ideal world they might rarely subject themselves to it, but they can play it, really.

On the other hand, the Americans are eager to embrace the concept of four-ball golf.

It's a man's game, this. You play your own ball from 1st tee to 18th green in an exercise in the assumption of personal responsibility, but it is also incumbent on you to subserve yourself in the interests of the team, because you have a buddy alongside you who is doing the same thing.

Sometimes he might play a hole better than you and his

their opponents 9-0 in four-balls, with three halved. For once, statistics come down on the white knight side of lies and damned lies.

The tactics and even the job requirements of the two forms of the game are similar, but with subtle differences. The ideal four-ball combination is a synergy between pass doble and frost, flashy Ferrari and solid Volvo, haute couture and ready-to-wear serge.

The Latin-American pran-

er in the bright red sports car and the Giorgio Armani attire will be the aggressive one, the one who will take on the angle of a dog-leg, the one who will fire his second shot at the green at a par-five. He is Jesper Parnevik, Costantino Rocca, Tiger Woods, Fred Couples.

His partner, the sedate hoover driving the family estate car while garbed in clothes from Marks and Sparks, will be Joe Steady, hitting the fairway, putting the green, two putts for par. He is Nick Faldo, Bernhard Langer, Tom Lehman, Mark O'Meara.

Foursomes are different in as much as inter-personal relationships form a vital part

of the pairing. Rocca and José María Olazábal like each other, trust each other, have games that dovetail together. O'Meara is like a surrogate father to Woods on the course. You have to be confident in your partner, know how to work together closer than you will ever have to in four-balls.

You also will need to calculate when to go for the green, who is to take the drive on what holes, who is the better putter.

All these things, and more, enter into the psychology of foursomes pairs. Above all, you must remember the most important foursomes component of all: never, ever, say "sorry".

The Latin-American pran-

er has his own band of fans — not all of them Italian — some of them wearing T-shirts and visors bearing the legend "Rocky Rocca". He avoided eye contact, to keep his concentration. The crowd was noisy and enthusiastic — but so silent during shots that often only the

whistling of the wind and the slight buzz of thousands of headphones tuned in to Radio 5 Live's coverage could be heard. It was a real melting-pot. There were Spaniards, Britons, Irish, French, Italian, German, Swedes, Danes and masses of Americans.

The moment of the day, when all the fans, whatever their allegiance, rose as one, arms hauled skywards by some invisible force, was Olazábal's eagle two at the 14th.

He hit a wedge from 133 yards to the elevated green, the ball, unseen by him, pitched three feet short of the hole, then disappeared. The pandemonium was universal and the Europeans were back in the match, all square.

Rocca, who had started the revival with a birdie at the 13th, kept it going by holing a good putt for a half in three at the 15th and put his side up, for good, with a birdie three at the next.

Viva los dos amigos.

Ballesteros sent them over the top twice to rally the troops. In the four-balls they recovered from two down to six up to beat Davis Love III and Phil Mickelson on the last green, spoiling Mickelson's 100 per cent Ryder Cup record with a burst of three birdies and an exhilarating eagle in the space of five holes. Then, after a quick sandwich, they set off in the foursomes, where they just lost a tight, untidy tussle with Scott Hoch and Lee Janzen. The Americans won with a birdie three at the last where Hoch holed from five feet.



Olazábal chips in as Rocca lines up a putt

Olazábal and Rocca are very good friends, which helps but is not vital for a successful pairing. They tend to eat dinner together. If Rocca's family is not at a tournament with him and they understand each other perfectly, using a combination of Spanish and Italian with some English mixed in.

Temperamentally they are suited, for, despite the sultry Latin looks, they have no need for histrionics on the course. Against Hoch and Janzen, they lost the first two holes, but they were all square again by the 6th and went one up when they won the 7th with a birdie three. The crowd in the stands behind the green chanted "Chema, Chema", the diminutive for José María, when Olazábal hit a great second shot to three feet.

Rocca received his own chant when he rolled the putt home nonchalantly, but there were no high-fives, just the ball given to his partner in a businesslike manner.

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Olazábal chips in as Rocca lines up a putt

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Cup fever shifts to downtown Sudbury

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL
BY WALTER GAMMIE

NOT everything that the FA Cup touches turns to gold. Sudbury Town suffered such a letdown from their run last season that they ended by resigning from the Dr Martens League. They dropped into the Jewson Eastern Counties League, taking the place of their own reserve team — now disbanded — alongside Sudbury Wanderers, their local rivals.

The reasons were financial," David Webb, the secretary, said after the club went through the throes of forming a new board and shedding the majority of its contracted players. Even though Sudbury beat Brighton in a first-round replay and then lost to Brentford in a "home" match switched to Colchester United's ground, the pickings were not great.

There wasn't as big a gate at Layer Road as we expected," Webb said, "and the stewards, policing and the rest cost us a lot of money." Add the increasing number of clubs from the West Country in the Dr Martens League southern division, and inadequate attendances in a small market town, and the decision to end a seven-year spell in the league was easily taken.

Richie Cowling, the manager, and the remaining contracted players from last season are now focused on the biggest challenge of their season, an away match against Wrexham, the champions, tomorrow.

Down the road, meanwhile, Sudbury Wanderers are gripped by a mild dose of the Cup fever that swept the town as they prepare for a home tie in the second qualifying round against Bromsgrove Rovers. Wanderers have already taken the scalp of one former Conference club, beating Stafford Rangers 3-0 at Brundun Lane.

The irony of Town's plight is that their exploits last season have earned them exemption to the fourth qualifying round. "You could call it a golden handshake," Webb said.

Seamier side of the game

The Forest v Anderlecht affair fits a sorry pattern in European football



Left: Guruceta Muro, the referee bribed by Anderlecht in 1984 to allow them to beat Nottingham Forest in the Uefa Cup semi-final, above. Anderlecht may escape suspension

It was at the San Siro in May 1965 that Tommy Smith literally kicked the referee off the field. Kicked him, as he still recounts, all the way back to the dressing room. Not that it was much consolation. Two decisions by Ortiz de Nendibil, the Spanish referee — a goal scored by Internazionale from an indirect free kick, another when Peiro kicked the ball out of the goalkeeper's hands — had enabled Inter to win the second leg of a European Cup semi-final 3-0 after losing 3-1 at Anfield.

They had won in much the same way in the equivalent semi-final the previous year when Luis Suarez kicked Dortmund's right half and put him off the field, reducing the Germans to ten men. The Yugoslav referee did nothing about it.

In the 1966 semi-final, however, a brave Hungarian referee, Gyorgy Vadas, resisted the blandishments of Angelo Moratti, the Inter president. Real Madrid gained a draw to reach the final — and Vadas never got another international game.

Those of us who spent years beating our heads against a wall, publicising such tales of corruption to no avail, are hardly surprised by the news that the papers relating to the Anderlecht v Nottingham Forest Uefa Cup semi-final in 1984 "disappeared" after reaching the Uefa offices five years ago.

Anderlecht are known now to have bribed the Spanish referee of that game, Guruceta Muro, who was subsequently killed in a

car crash. Muro refused

Forest a perfectly good goal made by Paul Hart, and gave a non-existent penalty against them. Uefa's statute of limitations has a ten-year span and although Uefa have now tried to suspend Anderlecht from their tournaments for a year, they may not be able to make it stick.

To be fair, Uefa under the reign of Lennart Johansson, have been more willing to act than under previous leaders.

A couple of seasons ago, indeed, they acted with what seemed almost indecent haste when Dynamo Kiev were accused of offering favours to the Spanish referee, Lopez Nieto.

In no time at all, Kiev, who cut little international ice, were suitably punished. Their appeal was heard and dismissed in the blink of an eye, though later their suspension was reduced.

Kiev may or may not have been guilty, though their complaints that they had

been castigated because they did not malter made some sense.

No such punishment, indeed none at all, visited Juventus when, in a *Sunday Times* investigation, myself and a colleague showed beyond doubt that the Hungarian fixer, Dezsö Solti, who had previously worked for Inter, had gone to Lisbon to offer money to the Portuguese referee, Lobo, to bend the 1973 return European Cup semi-final between Derby County and Juventus.

Lobo reported the attempt. Juventus seemed bang to rights, but a farcical Uefa disciplinary committee meeting in Zurich failed to confront Solti with Lobo, and was followed almost at once by a letter of thanks and exoneration to Juventus from Hans Bangerter, the Uefa secretary.

At the centre of such activities at Inter, and then Juventus, was the celebrated wheeler-dealer, Italo Allodi.

When an Italian newspaper once asked him whether he was hurt by my

time in a Belgrade hotel, where he was gambling, in 1973. Four years later, at the Hotel Excelsior in Rome, a few hours before Liverpool won the European Cup final, he approached me, saying: "We've never met, but my name is Italo Allodi."

When taxed with his inventions, he replied in the press that he had sent money through an old friend of mine, an Italian youth coach, who by that time was presumed dead.

Uefa's indulgence of Juve in 1973 and after — our revelations brought no action — and Solti was deemed to be acting alone — provided corrupt clubs with a kind of chear's charter.

In 1983, Inter were at it again. Groningen of Holland, beat them in a first-leg Uefa Cup match after which the manager, Han Berger, was approached by a Dutch intermediary, the agent Apollonius Konijnenberg. He, according to Berger, offered him £55,000 to see Groningen lose the return.

In the event, Inter won easily in Bari, where they had

to play their home game, but a Uefa inquiry ensued in which Groningen's president, De Vries, said he himself had been approached in Bari. Berger said that Inter had offered to pay for a new grandstand while he could have the management of Pisa or Verona.

One of Konijnenberg's most damning conversations with Berger had been overheard by a witness. But in the event, the committee decided there was no proof that Konijnenberg and Inter were connected.

Tomorrow, if Torino do not beat Genoa in a Serie B game in Turin, Graeme Souness is in danger of losing his job as the Torino manager. Spartaco Landini, the Genoa general manager, is in no danger at all.

The Italy right back when they lost to North Korea in Middlesbrough in the 1996 World Cup, Landini was involved in an *opera buffa* of a scam 20 years later. Roma had lost to Dundee United away in

the first leg of yet another European cup semi-final. Landini and Giampaolo Cominato, a football administrator, approached the Roma president, Dino Viola, and said that if he gave them £50,000, they could fix the French referee, Michel Vautrot.

The money was handed over but the two never went near the blameless Vautrot. However, when the referee was taken out to dinner by Roma directors, he received a mysterious phone call, actually from Cominato, saying: "Paolo wishes you good luck" — a pre-arranged message.

Dino Viola, however, assumed this was an Italian referee called Paolo Bergamo, to whom in time he blurted out the tale. Bergamo reported it, but under the Italian Federation's statute of limitations, it was too late to proceed. Landini and Cominato were not prosecuted. Roma escaped merely with a fine by Uefa.

Small wonder Anderlecht thought they could get away with it. Perhaps they have.

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When losing is no joke



Pointing the finger: For a time, Wilson refrained from public criticism of his players. Now he can hold back no longer

The supporters are beginning to get restless, Mark Hodkinson reports

Even weeks ago, Barnsley was a town on high. The football club had secured promotion to the FA Carling Premiership and people sang their joy and eternal loyalty, whether to a television camera down at the pub or to the person behind them in the queue for a season ticket.

Since then, the team has lost six matches, conceded 21 goals and finds itself in the relegation zone for the first time this season. There are, of course, thousands who remain unfailingly loyal, but the trickle of discontent has started. "It was pretty dire," John Murphy of Burton Grange, Barnsley, wrote. "We couldn't pass: we didn't know what to do when we had the ball." It gets worse. "Barnsley were a pathetic embarrassment. I felt myself cringing in my seat. What is going on at Oakwell?" Ellie Hambleton, of Darfield.

These comments were among a batch of letters sent to the *Barnsley Chronicle* after the team's 3-0 home defeat against Aston Villa two weeks ago. At this match, a significant number left ten minutes before the final whistle. Some of these would have been the same people who, back in May, queued for hours to buy a season ticket to ensure that they did not miss out on Barnsley's

historic season. Presumably, the air of dissatisfaction will have been honed by two further heavy defeats since.

Much was made of the response to Barnsley's 6-0 drubbing by Chelsea a month ago. They sang when they were hurting, boasting that they were to win 6-5 when they were five goals behind.

The reaction was mere bravado, but it was seen, erroneously, as a barometer of loyalty. When your team is losing so heavily, especially at home, a game takes on a surreal quality. It becomes comical in the same way it does when your luggage flies to New Delhi while you land in Rome and the rep announces that there is a meningitis scare at your intended hotel.

It is not, however, a matter of hilarity when your team

loses to a struggling Villa side, especially if they have scored three times from eight shots and your team has not scored from 13 attempts. These cruel and frustrating defeats are borne reluctantly by the supporter, but with valour; anything else is cowardly.

Keith Lodge, the sports editor who has opened the letters of complaint at the *Chronicle*, is a seasoned hack, not prone to indignation or shouting. He thinks before he speaks. His response to the grumbling and the early-leavers amounts, then, to a noteworthy reprimand. "For supporters to dish out such harsh criticism on the management so soon is every bit as pathetic as the embarrassment felt by the lady who sent us a letter describing how she cringed in her seat," he said.

The griping might be premature but it is indicative of a tangible mood-swing within the town. This is mirrored by a degree of change within the club. The side that clinched promotion appears to be disintegrating: in recent games more than half the players used have been signed since the summer. Paul Wilkinson, the striker who formed a 27-goal partnership last season with John Hendrie, has left to join Millwall. Clint Marcelli has been linked with the Spanish club, Seville, and several predatory scouts have noted Hendrie's inability to hold down a first-team place.

Another difference has been Danny Wilson's willingness publicly to criticise his team, notably his defenders. He had previously kept his censure within the dressing-room. This week he called on them in several interviews to "take on responsibility" and improve their all-round play.

A team in flux, impatient supporters, a manager lambasting his players: Barnsley would seem to be a club bleeding hope and dreams. Everyone knows, though, that a couple of wins, preferably in succession, will have them dancing in the streets once more, such is the fickle nature of the football supporter.

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FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Karlheinz Riedle's professionalism has earned instant respect from team-mates and management at Liverpool



Riedle has plainly not come to England in search of easy money — on and off the field he has impressed his new employers at Anfield. "He is the best professional I've ever worked with," Evans, the Liverpool manager, said

The Liverpool players are not an easy bunch to impress. There is an irreverent, impish streak running through the younger ones, in particular, an individuality, an iconoclastic attitude that can offend those who are used to the studied blandness of men such as Alan Shearer. They do not give their respect easily, but they have given it to Karlheinz Riedle.

He went with them to Chester races earlier this week on a club day out. Sometimes, when a group of players go out for a meal locally, he goes as well. He joins in; that is part of the reason why they like him, part of the reason they never really warmed to the more aloof Stan Collymore. With Riedle, though, there is another reason, too.

There was instant respect for Karl among the rest of the players as soon as he arrived here," Steve McManaman said. "He has won everything there is to win in the game but the point is that we are not talking about something he did five or ten years ago, something way back in time.

When he came to Liverpool, he had just scored two goals against Juventus, the best club side in the world, to win the European Cup for Borussia Dortmund. Three months later and there he was playing for us at Wimbledon. The respect for him here is second to none because of what he has achieved in his career.

It does not end there, either. Riedle has enough respect to riddle Linford Christie with envy. "He is the best professional I have ever worked with," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said after the 3-0 victory over Aston Villa on Monday. And Evans has worked with a few good professionals in his time.

Riedle is a sober character, earnest and amiable, courteous to a fault, a model

footballer indeed. He is fluent in several languages, including English, but until recently he has asked for a translator to be present at interviews lest he be misinterpreted. He does not court controversy or attention. His words exude diplomacy.

His character is less flamboyant than that of Jürgen Klinsmann, the only other high-profile German to have played in the Premiership, but, in a quieter way, he is likely to be just as effective an ambassador for his country's footballing talents.

He has already gained a reputation on Merseyside for being sensible.

He shied away from living in Southport, the favoured residence of Liverpool and Everton footballers, because he was worried that the funfair would distract his sons, Alessandro, six, and Dominic, four, from their schoolwork.

"I know my boys," Riedle said. "When you have a playground like this in Southport, they would want to go every day. It might distract them a little bit. It is not too important but I thought it would

be better if we moved somewhere else." Next week, he and the boys and his wife, Gaby, are due to move into a house "over the water" on The Wirral.

It is already clear that Evans got one of the best bargains of the summer when he paid Dortmund £1.8 million for the man who scored two classic headers in the 3-1 European Cup final defeat of Juventus in Munich in May.

Even though Riedle's international career appears to have come to an end, nobody could quite believe he was leaving the European champions for Anfield and when his signing was confirmed, the cynics said he just wanted one last payday.

The three goals he has scored already, though, have all been minor classics. The first, after a fine turn had embarrassed a defender, was a delicate chip over Nigel Martyn in the victory at Leeds United, the second a bullet header that Paul Jones could only push into the roof of the net against Southampton at The Dell last Saturday, the third a clinical finish

against Villa that hurtled through the legs of Mark Bosnich.

More than that, it is obvious that his style of play, his ability to hold the ball up and let others feed off him, his famous prowess in the air, can only complement the quicksilver skills of Robbie Fowler and Michael Owen whenever they play alongside him.

At the moment, the two young players are even threatening to keep him out of

the side but Riedle, who celebrated his 32nd birthday last week, is the antithesis of the temperamental foreign import. Speak to him for five minutes and it is clear he is not the sort of man who could play out his career at half-pace, thinking just of the money. When he talks about a duty to the team, he means it.

"It is not my problem about what the manager does when Robbie is fully fit and Michael and I want the other place," Riedle said. "We have so many good players at the club and it is not a concern for me if I have to go on the bench. Of course, when you do not play, you do not feel good, but the important thing is to work for the team.

"When I came here, the manager said he wanted me to play a little bit behind the first forward. I like this position and it is important to create the space and the chances for other people to score. Who scores is not so important to me any more."

"Scoring is nice but I feel the same when I create a goal now. Playing for the team is more important than my own glory now. I knew all about Robbie before I came to Liverpool but I have to admit I was not aware of Michael. I am aware of him now. He is a fantastic young player. I admire both of them."

"People wonder why I left Dortmund but we were at the point where we had won two domestic championships in succession in Germany and then the European Cup as well and it was the right

time for me to change. Last year was probably the happiest year of my career but when you have won a lot of things with one team, sometimes it is better to have another challenge so you can create new things."

Riedle began his career with the Bundesliga club, Augsburg, before he moved on to Blau-Weiss Berlin, Werder Bremen and then Lazio, where he was a contemporary of Paul Gascoigne and played in attack with Thomas Doll. He scored 17 goals in 45 internationals for Germany and was part of the squad that won the 1990 World Cup in Italy. When he left Lazio, he joined Dortmund.

He had long cherished an ambition to play in the Premiership with one of the leading clubs, though, and when the opportunity to play for Liverpool arose, he jumped at it. Off the field, he is already revelling in the quieter life that is allowed to lead.

"It was impossible to live like a normal person in Italy or in Germany," he said. "Since I have been living here, I have even been able to go shopping to the supermarket with my wife. That is the first time I have been able to do that. The people here are so friendly. They are much more open than anywhere else I have lived."

"People ask why I did not go to London where the restaurants and the theatres are. But I did not come here for restaurants and theatres. I want to play good football at a high level. I think Liverpool will be my last club. After that, maybe I will play for a joke somewhere else but when I leave here, I will be finished with playing football."

Perhaps then he will have time for Southport and its funfair.

OLIVER HOLT



Riedle during his Liverpool debut

Fulham bask in limelight

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

FULHAM'S training headquarters at the BBC Sports Ground in Motspur Park, deep in suburban Surrey, rarely attracts much attention. Perhaps a few retired house-holders might peer from their back gardens, as the Fulham players practise, but there is little of significant interest.

Not any more. After the appointment of Kevin Keegan and Ray Wilkins on Thursday, to lead Fulham into the promised land of the FA Carling Premiership, nothing is as it was at the Nationwide League second division club. Motspur Park was alive yesterday with representatives of the media, all wanting an audience with the saviours of Craven Cottage and long is it likely to continue.

As the players tried to prepare for their game away to Wigan Athletic this afternoon, Simon Morgan, the Fulham captain, admitted that it had been a week of distraction. "To be truthful, it's been a crazy whirl, but we are typical



players," he said. "We've closed the dressing-room door and had a good laugh and enjoyed some banter. There is a great opportunity for us here to impress and go forward with the new management. Our future is in our hands."

Keegan, the bizarrely named chief operating officer, will initially assist with coaching as he assesses his players. Wilkins, the manager, will pick the team. "My first impression has been of the enthusiasm shown in training by everyone," Keegan, whose newly inherited side has lost its past four league and cup matches, said.

No such happy times at Huddersfield Town, who are without a league victory this season and languish in last

place in the first division. Disenchanted supporters have been calling for the head of Brian Horton, the manager, and may well repeat their requests if Huddersfield do not improve against Wolverhampton Wanderers at Molineux today.

"There's no way I'm walking away from this club," Horton said. "I'm working very hard to put things right and I care very much about the club. I had a reputation of being a bather as a player and that's exactly what I am as a manager. There's no way I'm going to let my head drop."

Billy Bonds, the Millwall manager, continued his recent spending spree yesterday by signing Nigel Spink, the goalkeeper, from West Bromwich Albion for £50,000.

Spink, 39, who played in

Aston Villa's European Cup

final victory against Bayern

Munich in 1982, is Bonds's third signing after the arrival of the strikers, Paul Shaw and Paul Wilkinson, from Arsenal and Barnsley respectively, for a combined £400,000.

As the players tried to

Injury rules out Ripley for England

By KEVIN McCARRA

STUART RIPLEY will not recover from injury in time to make the England squad for the World Cup qualifying match in Italy. At the start of the week, Roy Hodgson, the Blackburn manager, offered to hurry the winger back after his pulled hamstring if Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, wanted him for the game on October 11.

But yesterday Hodgson said that Ripley will not play until next Saturday against Wimbledon at the earliest, which is too late for an England call-up.

Andy Impey, 21, is in line to make his debut for West Ham United against Liverpool at Upton Park today after his transfer for £1.2 million from Queens Park Rangers.

Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manager, yesterday denied reports that Arsenal have

made a bid for Jason

McAteer, the unsettled Liver-

pool midfield player.

Rangers wear heavy disguise

By KEVIN McCARRA

THOSE with their eyes fixed only on results may believe that they have witnessed Scottish football sticking fast to its traditional ways. On Wednesday, Rangers won 3-0 at Kilmarnock to assume their familiar leadership of the Scottish League premier division.

Facts, however, can be flimsy. The league table might still resemble an icebound landscape, unable to change and never to permit fresh growth, but the mood of the game is far from desolate. Despite superficial appearances, the season has not corresponded to the dreary predictions and Rangers, to their distress, have proved that their success is never a matter of destiny.

Reaching the top of the premier division will not be enough to mollify their aggrieved supporters. In the summer, after the outlay of £14 million on eight new players, the public and the pundits were united in trumpeting the might and depth of the Rang-

ers squad. Only their opponents failed to swoon.

Some signings are injured, others seem bland and Rangers have been removed from the European Cup by IFK Gothenburg, from the Coca-Cola Cup by Dundee United, and lag 2-1 to a humdrum Strasburg team after the first leg of their Uefa Cup tie. Rangers have hardly troubled to conceal the fact that they are flustered.

It may have hurt their pride to re-sign Richard Gough, who is expected to return from Kansas City Wizards next month, but this slice of humble pie may be nutritious. The centre half is 35, yet Rangers have still to demonstrate that they can find successors for such Scots whose resolve underwrote success at Ibrox over many years.

Celtic, too, have proved surprising, although in their case the shock comes from a failure to live down to expectations. Wim Jansen, their Dutch coach, was a formidable player, but he lacks the patina of celebrity that would

have ensured respect. His appointment, in the summer, was met with disdain. Defeats by Hibernian and Dunfermline Athletic, in Celtic's opening league matches, added to the forlorn impression, but the club has not been beaten by any other Scottish club since then and, in last weekend's 2-0 win over Aberdeen, the tactical solidity of Jansen's side was as striking as its clan.

Now, of course, Celtic face the difficulty of retaining the form they have discovered.

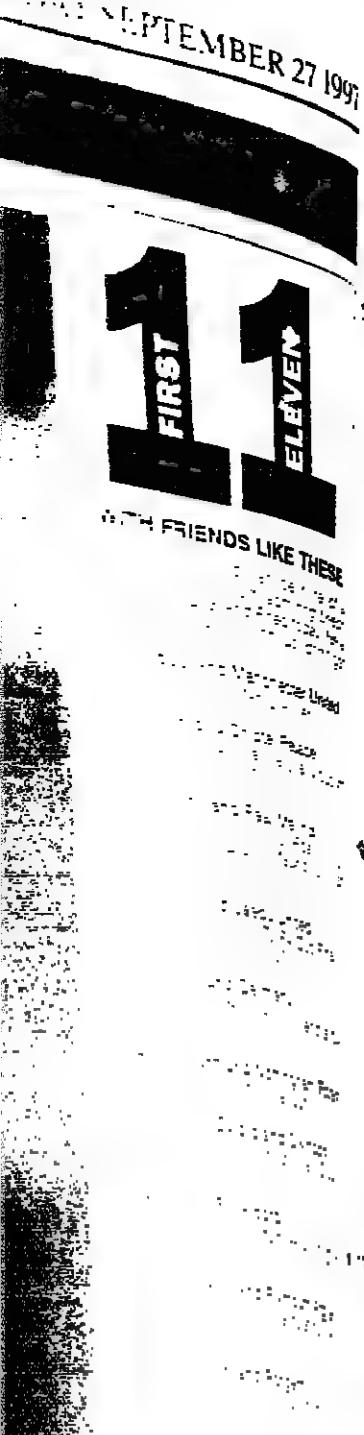
Today, they are at Dundee United and even if Tommy McLean's team are without a victory in the League, Celtic will be mindful of theirfeat in removing Rangers from the Coca-Cola Cup. Rangers themselves, at home to Motherwell, may once more be able to further their interests in a season that has so far brought only derision.

For Aberdeen, cancells have almost become a soundtrack. They are bottom of the table and the mortification is made all the more intense by perplexity. A squad that seemed

to have been thoughtfully reconstructed in the close season should amass a sturdy record and take up a respectable position in the league.

Instead, they are last and the match at home today, against Dunfermline, does not guarantee revival. So far, the premier division has been a disconcerting affair with Hibernian, at home to St Johnstone today, and Heart of Midlothian, who are at Kilmarnock, engaged in a joint exercise to restore dignity to football in Edinburgh.

Scotland's first, second and third division clubs have been promised a share of around £1 million a season if the proposed Premiership league becomes a reality. Lex Gold, chairman of Hibernian and spokesman for the premier division clubs, yesterday outlined the criteria and principles of the proposed new league and revealed that £985,000 would be given to the 30 clubs outside the top flight — a sum similar to that which they receive at present from the Scottish League.



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FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Answering the call to lead from front on a night to remember

For the first time in my Liverpool career, I was made captain of the team on Monday night. It was a proud moment for me to lead the lads out at Anfield.

It might be asked, why? It is true that in many ways, a captain in football is not as important as in other sports, but it is not just an honorary role, either. I was captain against Aston Villa because Paul Ince and Mark Wright were injured and, surprisingly enough, I was one of the most experienced players left standing.

It was a strange feeling to realise that I had officially become an experienced player, whereas in the past I have always been a young player with promise.

It is an important thing, to a Liverpool lad, to be captain of the team from his city of birth, even more so when your family is from

the city and supports the club and they see you wearing that armband. How many young kids from Liverpool have dreams of doing that?

It is an important role, not because the captain can directly determine the outcome of game, but because you can be an important influence. There are captains I can recall, such as Tony Adams, who was captain on occasions when I played for England, who had tremendous inspirational qualities and would lead by example on the pitch. I suppose it is about taking responsibility. We have plenty of players in our side who do that, but my role against Villa was quite clear.

We had a young side out and I just had to help to keep them calm, try to stop them getting nervous and becoming intimidated by the atmosphere. Michael Owen has

some experience already, but some young players, such as Jamie Carragher, Danny Murphy and David Thompson, the substitute, were really pitched in at the deep end.

I can't make any great claims about my role as captain, apart from that I just talked to the lads. But then so did the other experienced players. Michael Thomas was helping me by pointing things out on the pitch and just keeping us going.

If I did anything right as captain, it was to win the toss and kick towards the Kop in the second half, the first time we had done so this season. In fact, I have got a 100 per cent record as Liverpool captain, which can't be bad.

I was pleased with the way that we played, mostly because the young players did so well. It was difficult for them because we were



McMANAMAN'S WORLD

playing a good team and many people thought we would be turned over. The young lads have probably never felt an atmosphere like that, where there is so much expectation on them to do well, even though the odds are stacked against them.

We came through it, though, and played very well. We moved the ball quickly and, for perhaps the first time this season, looked really comfortable when we went forward at pace. I enjoyed the responsibility and the experience, but I don't think I will be keeping the armband.

I have been in the spotlight quite regularly lately and I know some people will be thinking that I have scored goals and turned on performances because I want to prove

Ronnie Moran, our coach, came up to me a couple of minutes before the kick-off, handed me the armband and said: "You'd better put that on." The lads gave me a bit of ribbing by calling me "skipper" but that was about it.

People have suggested that it improved my game, but I don't think so. I was pleased with my performance, but I hardly needed any greater motivation.

I have been in the spotlight quite regularly lately and I know some people will be thinking that I have scored goals and turned on performances because I want to prove

my critics wrong. It just does not work like that. In every game you try your best, but you can have a good game, miss a sitter and people think you have not played well. On the other hand, you can have a stinker but score a goal and then you are the centre of attention and people believe that you must have made a decent contribution.

At least the victory over Villa showed that we have not got too many problems at Anfield. It is just a question of fitting all the pieces together after the manager made quite a few summer signings.

On song for Europe

I think that I have had about 1,000 requests for tickets for the UEFA Cup match against Celtic at Anfield next week. I don't know how I am going to get all those tickets, but I am looking forward to the game, anyway. Even if Liverpool did not play particularly well in the first leg in Glasgow, it was still a great match to be involved in.

The atmosphere was absolutely tremendous and I hope that it will be like that at Anfield, although I also hope that the game does not work out the same.

We did score two decent away goals, though, which have given us a slight initiative that we must build on at Anfield next Tuesday night.

Welcome back, Kevin

I was extremely interested to see that Kevin Keegan is to return to the game with Fulham. It is good to see him back so quickly because, no matter what anyone thinks of him, he clearly loves football and he obviously has a lot to offer.

It is an exciting event, especially if you are a Fulham fan, because he is a massive name who has great charisma. I think that Keegan has a love affair with football. He obviously had problems at Newcastle United, in the sense that the pressure was so intense, and he said that it got too much for him. I can understand that. At Newcastle there is a massive expectation to win things, and to live that as the manager made quite a few summer signings.

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STEVE McMANAMAN

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

(Last week's position in brackets)

	PLAYED	POINTS	GWS
1. ARSENAL (4)	8	18	+12
2. MANCHESTER UTD (1)	8	18	+9
3. BLACKBURN ROVERS (2)	8	15	+10
4. LEICESTER CITY (5)	8	15	+5
5. CHELSEA (3)	7	13	+11
6. LIVERPOOL (7)	7	12	+5
7. NEWCASTLE UTD (12)	5	12	+2
8. LEEDS UTD (9)	8	10	-1
9. CRYSTAL PALACE (14)	8	10	-2
10. WEST HAM UTD (6)	8	10	-3
11. COVENTRY CITY (8)	8	10	-3
12. DERBY COUNTY (11)	6	9	+3
13. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (10)	8	9	-4
14. ASTON VILLA (13)	8	9	-5
15. WIMBLEDON (16)	7	8	0
16. EVERTON (18)	7	7	-3
17. BOLTON WANDERERS (17)	7	7	-3
18. BARNESLEY (15)	8	6	-14
19. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (19)	8	5	-11
20. SOUTHAMPTON (20)	8	4	-8

HOME

	W	D	L	F	A
9	1	0	10	1	
3	1	0	8	3	
2	1	1	12	7	
2	3	0	8	4	
1	0	1	6	5	
2	0	1	6	3	
3	0	1	5	4	
2	0	1	5	3	
0	1	3	1	6	
0	0	3	1	6	
2	0	1	5	3	
2	3	0	8	6	
0	3	0	1	1	
2	0	2	7	7	
0	3	0	1	1	
1	0	3	3	12	
1	1	2	4	8	
1	1	3	3	7	

AWAY

	W	D	L	F	A
2	2	0	10	7	
2	2	0	4	0	
2	2	0	7	2	
2	0	1	3	2	
1	0	0	1	0	
2	0	1	3	2	
1	0	0	1	0	
1	0	0	1	0	
1	0	0	1	0	
1	0	1	2	5	
1	0	1	3	4	

LAST 10 MATCHES

	W	D	L
5	3	0	0
5	3	0	0
4	4	3	1
5	3	1	1
5	3	1	1
5	3	1	1
5	3	1	1
5	3	1	1
5	3	1	1

CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
W3	5	3	0	0	12	10	18
D2	5	3	0	0	12	10	16
D2	5	3	1	1	12	10	16
D1	5	3	1	1	12	10	16
W1	5	3	1	1	12	10	16
W2	5	3	1	1	12	10	16
W1	5	3	1	1	12	10	16
D1	5	3	1	1	12	10	16
L3	5	3	1	1	12	10	16
D2	5	3	1	1	12	10	16
W1	5	3	1	1			

CRICKET

Tufnell faces ban over claims he refused drug test

BY JOHN GOODBODY

THE news that Phil Tufnell has allegedly refused to give a urine sample for a random drugs test could have the most severe repercussions for the Middlesex spin bowler.

If the charge is proved, Tufnell could be dropped from the England party to tour the West Indies in January and be banned from cricket for at least the whole of the 1998 season, because refusing to provide a sample is as serious as having a positive test for a banned substance.

Tufnell, 31, has just fought back into Test cricket after a series of incidents that have not endeared him to the authorities.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) yesterday announced it has received a report from the United Kingdom Sports Council (UKSC), which conducts drug-testing for all sports, that Tufnell declined to give a specimen during Middlesex's game against Essex at Chelmsford last week, the last fixture of the county season. When Tufnell returns from his holiday abroad, he will face an ECB disciplinary hearing.

Tim Lamb, the ECB chief executive, said yesterday: "It is potentially a serious matter



Tufnell: faces ECB inquiry

but it would be quite wrong of us to pre-empt the result of the disciplinary hearing. It is only right to give Phil the opportunity to put his side of the story."

Point seven of the ECB's guidelines on drug-testing says: "It is an offence regarded as serious as giving a positive sample. There is no excuse for failing to comply with the notice to take drug control tests and, if you do not take it, you are liable to be dealt with as if you have been shown to have had a prohibited substance in your body."

There are about 130 drug tests in cricket every year and the most notorious positive case was when Ed Giddins,

Whittall hits heights

A CAREER-BEST double-century from Guy Whittall put New Zealand on the defensive on the second day of the second and final Test match in Bulawayo yesterday. Whittall's undefeated 203 helped Zimbabwe to 461, their third-highest total in 24 Tests, leaving New Zealand with little to play for beyond the draw and, at the close, they were 23 without loss.

Devon Malcolm has dismissed rumours that he is

the Sussex fast bowler, was found to have taken cocaine. He was banned from cricket for 19 months and will be allowed to return on April 1 next year.

Tufnell's career has been studded with controversy. In 1994, he was fined £800 by a North London court for assaulting his former fiancée, Jane McEvoy, while she was pregnant. She later claimed that Tufnell had taken cocaine, which he denied. However, Tufnell was attacked with a brick by his fiancée's father and Middlesex had to give him compassionate leave while he sorted out his personal life.

He once spent a night in a mental hospital after repeatedly hitting his head against the walls of a hotel in Perth, Australia. On the field, he was fined in 1993 for snatching his cap from an umpire during the England tour of India and also fined for hurling the ball to the ground against the Australians. Middlesex have fined him for making an obscene gesture to spectators on the field.

The latest incident was in February this year, when he was alleged to have smoked marijuana in the lavatory of a restaurant in New Zealand, and Whittaker was determined not to miss out again yesterday. The course was not over-demanding, putting a premium on speed. "I knew it would be fast as soon as I walked it," Whittaker said.

Whittaker powers to victory on Virtual Village Heyman

ready to end his Derbyshire career. The England fast bowler has been linked with a lucrative move to Worcestershire but last night insisted he was set to stay at the County Ground. "People like to dream about my future and these are just rumours," Malcolm, 34, said.

□ The England and Wales Cricket Board has announced a sponsorship deal with Pepsi-Cola for the World Cup in England in 1999.

Whitaker turns on the style at Wembley

BY JENNIFER MACARTHUR

JOHN WHITAKER, who is thrilling the crowds at Wembley with his acclaimed "teach-in" for novice jumpers, gave a convincing display of his winning style in the NSR Silver Bullet Salver at the Horse of the Year Show yesterday, when he and Virtual Village Heyman relegated the Norwegian national champion, Geir Gulliksen, on Alex H. to second place by 0.76sec.

In a rewarding day for the Yorkshire rider, Whitaker later finished a close second to James Fisher on his Linz Grand Prix winner, Kerville, in the Fordvye Curry International Cup.

Although the £500 that Whitaker won in the opening class was paltry compared with some of his previous winnings at Wembley (in 1989 he netted £27,000 in the Masters), his pleasure in Heyman's performance appeared to be reward enough. "He goes better each time out," Whitaker said. "He may not make an Olympic horse but he's very careful and very fast. He's definitely a horse for the future."

The eight-year-old Dutch-bred gelding had been outpaced in the opening speed class on Thursday, in which they finished fourth, and Whitaker was determined not to miss out again yesterday. The course was not over-demanding, putting a premium on speed. "I knew it would be fast as soon as I walked it," Whittaker said.

Heyman proved more than equal to the task. Effortlessly moving up a gear he sped round the 12-fence course, turning almost in mid-air after the double at fence No 5 to finish clear in 48.1sec. Although greeted as the winning round, Whitaker had to wait for confirmation until the next 22 riders had tried in vain to match his time. Heyman has already



Whitaker powers to victory on Virtual Village Heyman

ride Grannusch, the 18-year-old who underlined his form with second place in the Paris Grand Prix last week, where he was joint-eighth after incurring just four faults over his biggest track to date. Tonight he will encounter another demanding track when he competes in the Martin Collins leading showjumper of the year, one of the show's most coveted titles. Earlier today, Whitaker will

IN BRIEF

Late rally takes Australia through

ENGLAND'S hopes of reaching the final of the junior world cup hockey tournament at Milton Keynes yesterday disappeared as Australia scored two late goals to win a gruelling semi-final 2-1. Australia secured their third entry into the final, having finished runners-up in 1982 and 1989.

Australia's pressure finally broke down. England's defence in the 58th minute when the substitute outside left, Taylor, found space on the left of the circle and pushed the ball into goal for a hard-earned equaliser. Elder scored the winner from a short corner four minutes later. England had taken the lead in the twelfth minute, when Simons finished off a well-worked short corner. England will play Germany tomorrow for the bronze medal.

Sainz to rejoin Toyota

MOTOR RALLYING: Carlos Sainz, from Spain, the former world champion, is leaving Ford to rejoin Toyota next season after the completion of the Japanese team's one-year ban for using illegal turbo restrictors. Ove Andersson, president of Toyota Motorsport, said: "His wealth of experience and technical knowledge will be enormous assets in next year's assault on the world championship."

Marshall marches on

SQUASH: Peter Marshall yesterday defeated Rodney Eyles, of Australia, the top seed, 15-7, 15-14, 15-13 in the quarter-finals of the Rush Creek US Open championship in Minneapolis. It was Marshall's second win over the world No 2 this year. Marshall, 26, of Nottingham, will now meet Simon Parke, also of England, while Peter Nicol, the Scot, will play Jonathon Power.

Hollioake at the helm

CRICKET: England have been seeded third, behind West Indies, the holders, and Australia in the sixth New T & T Cathay Pacific International Hong Kong Sixes. Adam Hollioake, of Surrey, leads a squad containing six members of the party to tour Lahore and Sharjah in December.

ENGLAND SQUAD: A Hollioake (Surrey), A Brown (Surrey), D Brown (Worcestershire), M Esham (Kent), M Fleming (Kent), B Hollioake (Surrey), G Lloyd (Lancashire).

Hosts entertain England

HOCKEY: England have been drawn in the same group as Holland, the hosts, and South Korea, the Olympic silver medal-winners, in the women's World Cup final in Utrecht next May. Scotland have been drawn in the same group as Australia, the world and Olympic champions.

WORLD CUP: Pool A: Australia, China, Germany, Scotland, South Africa, United States. Pool B: Argentina, England, India, South Korea, Holland, New Zealand.

Burton's name lives on

CYCLING: A permanent memorial to Beryl Burton, who won seven world road and track championships between 1959 and 1967, will be unveiled this evening at the Manchester velodrome. The memorial is a large display cabinet presented by the Road Time-Trials Council, whose British best all-rounder championship was won by Burton, who died last year, 25 years in succession.

MOTOR RACING: PANIS MAKES RAPID RETURN TO FORMULA ONE STAGE

Villeneuve plans a quick getaway

FROM RICHARD HOBSON

AT THE NURBURGRING

IT IS supposed to be Michael Schumacher, the aloof perfectionist, who leaves nothing to chance. Yesterday, however, Jacques Villeneuve gave a passable impersonation of his rival for the Formula One drivers' world championship when he spoke of his preparations for the Luxembourg Grand Prix here tomorrow.

Villeneuve, who reduced the deficit between Schumacher and himself to one point at the Austrian Grand Prix last week, revealed that he spent Thursday at Silverstone attempting to remedy the poor starts that have blighted his season.

After exchanging the overall leadership with Schumacher four times during the early weeks of the season, Villeneuve has trailed the man who

has won two world championships since the Canadian Grand Prix in June, a race remembered for the horrific accident experienced by Olivier Panis.

While Panis returns tomorrow, after breaking his legs, it will take a monumental drive to divert attention from the compelling contest between the two leading protagonists.

Villeneuve won here last season and, as Damon Hill acknowledged when comparing the two drivers earlier this week, he has the advantage in machinery. Whether he can make the superiority of his Williams-Renault over Schumacher's Ferrari count is another matter.

"It would be stupid to lose the championship because of a bad start," Villeneuve, reiterating that he is under contract to Williams in 1998, said after practice yesterday.

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Villeneuve won here

RACING: QUESTION MARKS HANG OVER SEVERAL OF THE CONTENDERS IN FESTIVAL SHOWPIECE

Revoque ready to solve Ascot puzzle

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

IN THE never ending battle waged in the betting ring, the punter does not enjoy many advantages against the old enemy — save one. While bookmakers have to chalk up odds for every race, backers are not obliged to take advantage of them.

Over a weekend when there is a splendid array of top-class racing — and no shortage of betting opportunities — one of racing's most relevant truisms should be borne in mind when contemplating the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes, the feature race of the Ascot Festival.

This afternoon's race, which traditionally determines who is Europe's top miler, is a nightmare for form students because of the uncertainty over which horses are capable of reproducing their best form. At least half of the field is returning to top company after an enforced absence, because of injuries, niggles or sickness.

Will Entrepreneur is back to his best after a 112-day absence, caused by a pulled hamstring suffered when he disappointed in the Derby? The connections of the 2,000 Guineas winner have hardly been exuding confidence in the run up to the race.

Even if the Michael Stoute

trained colt is 100 per cent, can he confirm Newmarket running with Revoque, considered by some to have been unlucky in the Guineas? Peter Chapple-Hyam's runner showed his wellbeing when returning from a long absence to beat Bahar at Doncaster 15 days ago.

If they are both back to their

best, is that form good enough in a year when no three-year-old has beaten the older horses in a group one race beyond a sprint distance? And if they are both a shade ring rusty, which of the "super seconds" that line up today can take advantage?

The answer to the puzzle centres on Entrepreneur. If he is in the form he showed when winning a fast-run Guineas, look no further for the winner. Should he disappoint, Allied Forces, a top group two horse, will be hard to keep out of the frame, but may have to give best to Revoque.

Revoque, left, is fancied for the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot today



Revoque, left, is fancied for the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot today

ASCOT TODAY

THUNDERER

2.00 Poseidon 3.50 WAYPOINT (nap) 4.30 Noisette 5.00 Astute 5.35 Sea Victor

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.00 ROMANOV.

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

DRAW: 5F-1M STR. LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.00 CUMBERLAND LODGE STAKES

BBC1

(Group III: £32,150; 1m 4f) (8 runners)

101 (1) -080203 MONGOLIAN (GB) (2f (D) (P) (Good) 1st in Newmarket 4-3-3 J. Walker 104

102 (2) -080204 BURGESS (GB) (2f (D) (P) (Good) 1st in Newmarket 4-3-3 J. Walker 104

103 (3) -041403 BURGESS MILL (GB) (2f (D) (Good) 1st in Newmarket 4-3-11 M. Johnson 114

104 (4) -162211 FAIRIES (GB) (2f (D) (Good) 2nd in Newmarket 4-3-9 J. Walker 114

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107 (7) -080742 POSEIDON (GB) (2f (D) (Good) 1st in Newmarket 4-3-9 J. Walker 118

BETTING: 5-2 Poseidon, 4-1 Burgess Mill, 4-1 Burgess, 5-1 Romanov, 5-1 Burgess Mill, 5-1 others.

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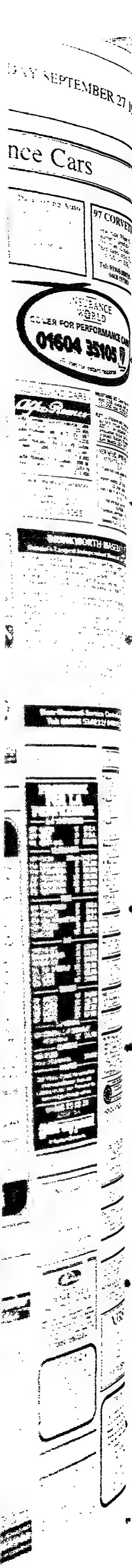
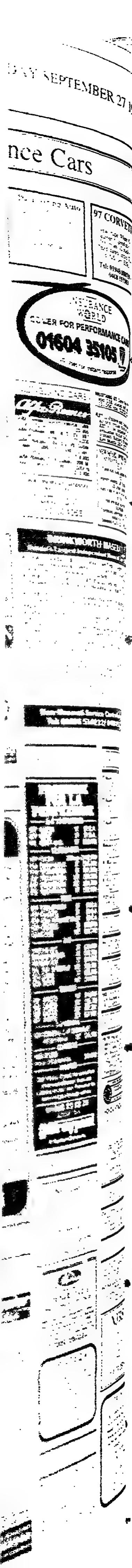
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WEEKEND MONEY 62

THE WEEKEND MONEY 45 47



Learn to
fly and
conquer
your fear

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Messages
are bad
for your
driving

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A drive
across the
roof of
the world

Page 49

go

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27 1997

Saddle up for the superstore

Can't manage the weekly shop without a car? You can
with a bicycle hitched to a hod, says Vaughan Freeman

It causes noise, pollution and congestion, but for many people the car is essential on at least one day a week. Getting to out-of-town supermarkets — and returning loaded with the family shopping — presents problems if you're walking or using public transport.

The answer could be to get on your bike — with a bright yellow shopping trolley hitched to the back. It might seem a low-tech alternative to today's computer-laden cars, but it could point the way to our future-free transport future.

The weekly drive to the supermarket can be up to four or five miles before queuing nose to tail with the rest of the traffic to get into the car park. Then comes the trail through the aisles, before loading up carrier bags at the checkout, loading the bags into the boot, queuing to get out of the car park again, then decanting the whole lot out and into the kitchen after the drive home again.

Now that Transport Secretary John Prescott has officially sounded the death knell for the two-car family, and has rephrased Norman Tebbit by urging us to get on our bikes, trains and buses, the anti-car tide is gaining momentum.

Which is where the Tesco Bike and Trailer Shopping scheme comes in. The Tesco store on the fringes of Chichester in West Sussex has 600 parking spaces, but the hope is that more of them will stand empty after Tesco and the Chichester District Council joined forces to make it easier for customers to cycle rather than drive to do their shopping.

The scheme offers motorists and cyclists alike a new way to shop. Having paid £5 to join the scheme, members get free use of the gaudily yellow "bike

hods" which hitch to the back of their cycles using an ingenious but simple-to-use coupling.

It means shoppers need just load the hod at the checkout, hitch up, then unload it at home. And, because of the Chichester town planner's forward-thinking, shopping cyclists have the use of a network of cycle paths and traffic-calmed routes other towns would do well to emulate.

Tesco store manager Paul Tyson says: "Jeff Lander, the district council's senior planning officer, came to see me with some information, including the fact that about a quarter of the people locally do not have access to a car."

He also showed me the bike-hod idea. Clearly hanging carrier bags over your handlebars is not a safe way to go shopping, while regular cycle panniers are smaller and limited as to the amount of shopping they can carry."

The idea of a partnership to promote the bike-hods, at Tesco's Fishbourne store seemed an obvious move. "The council and Tesco decided to enter a partnership to provide the bike-hods and the response has been terrific," Lander says. "A lot of people shop by bicycle anyway and the bike-hod allows them to carry far more, much more safely."

Designed to stand out in poor visibility, the hod can be fitted with lights for safer night riding. It is stable, says Lander, and the cyclist barely feels it is there.

"The more traffic congestion grows, the more perhaps people will see it just is not worth getting the car out to do the shopping and think instead they should take the bike," Lander adds.

The car has the clear advantage of having a boot. The bike-hod gives the bicycle

a boot, and means customers can load it in the supermarket and unload it at home, saving two lots of car loading which has to make things easier."

Tyson adds: "Realistically I don't think you are going to see the demise of the car as the main mode of transport, but if with schemes like this we can reduce the use of cars we can make an impact because up until now there has not been an easy-to-use alternative to the car for doing the weekly shopping."

Using the bike-hod is surprisingly simple. The hitch is in effect a flexible rubber hose that slots over a short metal pipe fitted to the bicycle's saddle post. A pin keeps the hose in place, and this acts as an articulated coupling between cycle and hod.

The hod can carry up to 81 litres, and a weight that would take two adults to lift. Yet on the move you can cycle along merrily and feel almost as if there is nothing behind you.

The only problem is that you tend to forget that the hod is bins or so wider each side than the cycle, so squeezing through narrow gaps can be embarrassing. The hod soaks up bumps and kerbs without difficulty and is very, very stable.

The ultimate irony — a delicious one for Chichester fans of pedal power — is that many Tesco cycle shoppers will bike home along the Centurion Way, a dedicated cycle path running by a disused railway line which has for many years been the route of a possible road bypass for the area.

With the transport wind now set firmly against the car, Chichester's biking shoppers can expect their way to be car-free for many years to come.

Claire Edwards: "We've filled it with all sorts of shopping, including trays of beer. Every customer has asked about it"



HOD CARRIER
Greener,
cheaper
and
healthier

■ CLAIRE Edwards is full of praise for the bike-hod. Claire, 23, who works at the supermarket and has been demonstrating the system to customers: "We have been filling it up with all sorts of shopping, including heavy things like trays of beer. You don't even know you have got the hod on the bike, and when we have been demonstrating every customer has stopped to ask about it. It is a really good idea. If I lived closer to the store, I would definitely use one for my shopping."

■ HER reservations represent the key obstacle to the project's instant success — she lives nine hilly miles from the Tesco store, and at the moment her Vauxhall Astra remains favourite for the weekly shop ahead of 18 or so tough miles on two wheels.

■ IF YOU have the legs for it though, the hod system is simplicity itself to use, and a lot cheaper and healthier than a car. It is also far roomier than even the biggest pannier, although users are warned against carrying children or pets.

■ THE HOD must be returned to the Tesco customer service desk within three days, hopefully filled with old newspapers, empty cans, and bottles to complete the "green" recycling circle.

■ THERE were no problems on a warm September day, but the test will come as winter approaches, and rain, snow, cold winds and mud challenge two-wheeler customers whose alternative to a bicycle, is the warm cocoon of a motor car.

Brilliant Porsche leaves the Look-at-me-mobile behind in speed and style

The born-again 911 is a giant leap that drives like a dream, writes Ian Morton

In 1963, when tiddler Stuttgart sports car firm Porsche produced a new rear-engined model based on its well-liked 356s, they called it the 901. Peugeot promptly complained that the use of a middle zero infringed their established practice, so Porsche changed the zero to a 1. Courtesy of French meddling, the embryo icon became the 911.

Now, after 34 years of evolution during which the basic concept and shape have remained intact and Porsche has built a huge international sports car reputation — it now sells in 69 countries — the 911 is born again. It is a quantum leap above and beyond the archetypal raw-edged Look-at-me-mobile of the yuppie Eighties, a period which Porsche would now prefer to forget, despite its obvious cash-flow benefits at the time.

Though the car is new in every respect, there never was a moment

when Porsche executives considered losing either the unmistakable shape or the legendary designation. And purist customers need not fret. In every department this latest 911 is significantly better than the current four-year-old model. Technology director Horst Marchart reckons that, with suitable updating, it will be good for a dozen years. First version, here next month, is the Carrera Coupé at £64,950. Cabrio, four-wheel drive and RS models will follow.

Logic propels this redesign. Revered by enthusiasts but financially rocky, Porsche decided to reorganise its operation around two model ranges, the 911 and mid-engined Boxster, with simultaneous development and a high level of common parts. Though they aim at totally different customers, 911 and Boxster share almost 40 per cent of components, mainly at the front end.

Though the car is new in every respect, there never was a moment



Porsche 911: executives never considered losing the unmistakable shape or legendary designation

PORSCHE 911

Engine: 3.4-litre, flat six, 24-valve water-cooled.

Transmission: Six-speed manual, five-speed auto with Tiptronic S.

Performance: 0-60mph in 5.2secs (auto 5.6secs). Max speed 174mph.

Economy: Combined 28mpg (manual), 26.6mpg (auto).

Equipment: UK specification still to be finalised.

Price: £61,950.

away in an instant. Porsche say it stops rocketing at 174mph — or 171mph in the five-speed automatic with Tiptronic button controls on the wheel — and I believe them.

Feel it. Arrow straight down the motorway, and the steering nevertheless caresses and weighs each yard of road, softening the blips and saturising the undulations in a way the old 911 never did. This one is a real long-distance smoothie.

Better still, come the tight fast bends and it just goes round. If you doubted its abilities, you wonder why. Challenge the next bends more violently and wonder some more. For the more testing the corner the more accurate and communicative the steering and the more level and confident the squat of the car upon its redesigned lightweight suspension.

I did get tiny twich on one corrugated corner, but the traction control system nailed it in an instant. As for the drivers, Porsche developed them at Le Mans. The car hit 60mph from rest in five seconds and stopped dead in half the time.

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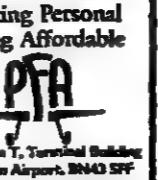
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Flying scared me, so I became a pilot

I did my qualifying finals at Cambridge at the weekend — after studying at Oxford. But the only light and dark blues in sight were the hues of the sky. I have been learning to fly with the Oxford Air Training School and, as part of the series of exams needed to gain a private pilot's licence, was sent solo from Oxford to Cambridge and Coventry. Finals is pilot-speak for an aircraft's last descent on to the runway after joining an airfield's circuit line.

The qualifying cross country is a landmark in any pilot's life. For me it also marked the crossing of a mental barrier in a personal odyssey to try to conquer an all-embracing dread of flying. While I cannot say there have been no moments of stomach-turning fear, facing up to the phobia bogey has worked — thanks largely to the patience and expertise of two instructors at Oxford Air Training School, an institution more used to training the next generation of airline pilots than prising the nervous off the ground.

Joe Sharp — ex-RAF navigator and now one of Oxford's commercial pilot instructors — left me momentarily speechless when he sent me on my first solo without any hint of warning after about 17 hours' of lessons. Brian Hampson persuaded me, after more than 40 hours, that it is possible to find your way with no signposts, maps which at first seem to bear no relationship to the reality of seemingly identical villages and fields 2,000 feet below, and where white, benign clouds, have a disconcerting propensity to become black monsters.

I had been sent on a couple of shorter forays before the qualifying cross country, but the cold, fear tried to raise its head as I opened the throttle and the Piper Warrior accelerated down the runway

Eve-Ann Prentice's fears vanished at the controls of a Piper Warrior



Under the bonnet: Prentice checks her plane before take-off

at Kidlington airfield just outside Oxford. Keeping on the centre line and glancing at the instruments to check oil and fuel temperatures and pressures, I reached 65 knots, and the only way up was up. I eased back the control column and was airborne.

From that moment I was so busy climbing, carrying out the series of checks which monitor the health of the 160hp engine and the progress of the flight, making regular radio contact with various air traffic controllers and marvelling at the miracle of navigation by dead reckoning, that the phobia was locked back in its cage.

Oxford Air Training School is regarded as one of the world's best and is currently

teaching 194 would-be commercial pilots from seven airlines. It trains just a handful of private pilots every year and its reputation is reflected in its prices. Gaining a private pilot's licence at Oxford costs £6,000-£7,000, while learning at a grass strip, such as Skyline School of Flying at Little Gransden in Cambridgeshire, can be £2,000-£2,500. But Oxford in your log book is the flying equivalent of an Oxbridge degree.

The cost of learning also depends on how long you take. You need a minimum of 43 hours' tuition, including 10 hours' solo, but most people take more than 50 hours and I have nearly 60. This is largely because, in common with many others, work, bad weather and other commitments

forced me to take more than a year's break, and it took more than 10 hours to catch up.

To gain a PPL, you need a medical certificate and must pass written multiple-choice exams in aviation law, meteorology, human performance (which deals in such matters as oxygen starvation), navigation, technical aspects of the aircraft and use of the radio. These are covered in more detail than you may imagine: the met exam alone, for instance, probably requires as much study as a GCSE. One of the most frustrating aspects of learning to fly is to co-ordinate this range of skills — I am not alone in initially finding using the radio immensely distracting when merely keeping the aircraft in straight and level flight seems to demand all your attention.

Then, just when you think you're going to be the world's longest-running student pilot, it all becomes clear. You do your sums to calculate the effect of wind, the times to reach certain landmarks, the direction you should steer and, hey presto, it works. The day dawns when you are not setting out more in hope than anticipation of arriving.

The important lesson Brian Hampson taught me was to accept that you are not going to know exactly where you are every second of the way, but that if you keep on course recognisable landmarks will eventually appear — usually at precisely the time predicted at the planning stage.

Everything then happens quickly and you are entered for the navigation test, where an examiner accompanies you on a pre-planned flight and diverts you to see if you have got lost if bad weather forced you to change route, the qualifying cross country and the general flight test, a sort of driving test in the sky.



Pre-flight briefing: it is possible with maps which seem to bear no relationship to seemingly identical villages and fields

After climbing away from Kidlington, setting the stopwatch and seeing the airfield disappear as I headed east towards Cambridge. I tuned the radio in to Luton as I was to pass within its radar area. The prospect of talking in radio-telephony language to an international airport with presumably more than 100 student pilots to contend with can be daunting at first. But

not as daunting as the thought of straying inadvertently too close to controlled airspace with its flight paths for big jets if you do not let the air traffic controllers know you exist so they can track you on radar.

Milton Keynes and Biggleswade appeared at the predicted times and, about 45 minutes after leaving Oxford, the brown haze of a city loomed. Five minutes later,

spires and steeples were clearly visible and, nestling on the far side was Cambridge airport. "God Bravo Foxrot Yankee Foxrot, finals to land." I radioed after being given clearance by the control tower, starting to feel like a real pilot.

Paying the landing fee of £8 made me feel even more authentic. But it was the approach to Coventry an hour and a half later which clinched it. "G-

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE



HOME GROAN 54

Borrowers seek amnesty over mortgage debts

WEEKEND MONEY

FINAL CHAPTER 53

Beginning of the end for Deutsche scandal



Anne Ashworth and Patrick Collinson discuss strategy with advisers to 'high net worth individuals'

Where super-rich really, really count

How many millionaires are there in the UK? Five thousand? Ten thousand? The answer is closer to 120,000, with the National Lottery alone producing nearly 500 so far and adding a further two to three every week. Showbusiness also continues to swell the ranks of the super-rich, with the Spice Girls being worth £4 million each at the last estimate.

There are also the members of the new Super Class, the accountants, lawyers and City dealers with earnings of £300,000 plus and bonuses that can exceed their salaries.

Reaching out to look after the money of this fast-growing band of millionaires and those close to achieving this status are the private client stockbrokers and asset managers who offer personalised, bespoke investment management services. Welcome to the world of "wealth management strategies" for "high net worth individuals".

At the top end of the private client investment management market are huge blue-chip houses such as Schroders, Mercury Asset Management, Newton, James Capel and Morgan Grenfell.

The basic cost per year for discretionary management, where the investment house relieves you of the burden of making your own decisions, is around 1 per cent of your portfolio, plus VAT, plus extras.

The type of service you can expect depends on how much money you have. If you approach Schroders with a £200,000 pile, you will be offered a discretionary unit trust service. The firm requires £1m before it will run a portfolio of directly-held shares on your behalf.

The high street banks are also keen to have their share of the high net worth individual market, offering fund management services through their Mayfair-based private banking divisions. Each of these clearing bank subsidiaries feels it to be superior to its fellows.

Barclays Private Bank focuses primarily on the bosses of family-owned businesses, offering them



Spice work if you can get it: the Spice Girls have made it into the ranks of the multi-millionaires and are now worth £4 million apiece, according to the latest estimate

corporate advisory services, as well as banking and investment management. Customers who are referred from Barclays branches have an average of £1 million invested.

Coutts, a division of NatWest, offers "integrated wealth management services", that is, banking,

investment management and estate planning. The bank, one of the world's leading providers of trusts, targets the wealthy young professional, "with a busy life and complex financial needs".

For those "exceptionally wealthy" customers with assets in excess of \$100 million (£61.73 million), Coutts

offers the de-luxe Latymer Service. Under the terms of a discretionary management service, you give authority to the manager to buy and sell investments on your behalf without obtaining prior approval on each and every occasion. The client can set whatever restrictions he or she wants — such as a ban on

investing in tobacco shares, specific shares which must not be sold and so on. The broker is then free to take advantage of market opportunities as they arise, without having to contact the client and ascertain their wishes.

A typical £1 million portfolio is likely to be 50-60 per cent invested

in a range of UK shares, with the balance spread between overseas equity and bond markets. As the total sum invested in an individual overseas market is unlikely to be large enough to warrant direct share investment, pooled vehicles such as unit and investment trusts are bought to gain exposure and

diversify risk. The service and administration should also be superior to that offered by a unit trust. A contract note is sent every time a transaction is effected, and detailed reviews and valuations are sent on a regular basis. Cash in the portfolio is also managed on an active basis to ensure that high interest rates are obtained.

Above all, the wealthy investor can expect the immediate attention of an investment manager at the other end of the line.

Dean Lush, director of Rothschild's private client division, said: "People with these sums of money are understandably upset if they are not treated individually. You mustn't be blasé about performance, but you downplay personal service at your peril in this business."

How much does it cost? Charges are typically a percentage of the total funds under management, with a sliding scale reflecting the amount managed, from around 1 per cent falling to as low as 0.2 per cent per year on large investments. There are also stockbroking commissions for each share purchase or sale which can considerably raise the manager's bill. These will be very high if the manager is a "churn and burn 'em" man, who frequently switches in and out of investments, so hiding his mistakes and increasing his firm's revenues at the same time.

These fees bring no guarantee of superior performance. There are many tales of those whose fortunes have shrunken while in the care of some blue-blooded firm. Part of the problem may lie in the personnel. It is claimed that first-class minds are kept busy with pension money, while the second-rate are shunted into the private client department.

Previously it was difficult to assess whether a manager was doing a passable or a deplorable job, as there were no published statistics. However, WM, the performance statistics group, now prepares peer group benchmarks that allow investment managers to be compared with the competition.

Who would you trust? page 52

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Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. PEP tax advantages are currently under review and are likely to change.

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Wild child of investment vehicles

Children do not always turn out as their parents hope. Kenneth Clarke planned that his brainchild, the corporate bond Pep, would be an unassuming investment. It would appeal to those nervous about shares but disenchanted with building society returns.

The erstwhile Chancellor envisaged that his creation would channel funds into Midlands engineering companies. Instead, the bond Pep has emerged as something of a sophisticate, frolicking *Hello*-style on the beach in Barbados, as well as toiling away in Dudley.

More evidence of this complicated personality can be found in the yields available on bond Peps. From the outset, investors were discouraged from comparing building society rates with bond yields because Peps were more risky. Direct comparison would now be extremely difficult, however, as aspiring bond Pep



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

holders must look at both the running yield and the gross redemption yield. The former shows the current income payout, the latter shows what the income would be if the current portfolio were to remain unchanged. If this figure is smaller than the running yield (now a frequent occurrence) then this suggests that the contents of the Pep's portfolio are more speculative than those that Mr Clarke had in mind (see page 55).

Some popular Peps now contain

bonds issued by exotic foreign states. The Commercial Union Pep has a holding, albeit small, of Barbadian stock.

More complexities arise when the annual charges are examined. Some managers deduct these from income, others from the capital, a covert way of making the income more eye-catching. The result of all this is that an investment intended to be simple has become something comprehensible only to experts. In 1995 Peps will be replaced by individual savings

accounts (isas), which are also likely to hold bonds. The current Chancellor must ensure that the isa does not inherit the failings of its predecessor.

Seek good advice

THE infamous Bernie Cornfeld, now deceased, invented the fund of funds.

The concept, though not the Cornfeld rapacity, lives on in the broker fund.

Many reputable advisers refuse to sell these high-charge schemes, arguing that they represent poor value. Others continue this profitable trade, claiming that no one would invest in broker funds if they were not a good deal. Not so. People buy broker funds only because they mistakenly believe that advisers put clients' interests first.

The commission-hungry would surely find a way to circumvent any ban on these investments. The moral is always ask your adviser how much he stands to make.

Deutsche writes final chapter

Caroline Merrell reports on the end of a financial scandal that rocked Britain's investment industry

The final chapter in a financial scandal that rocked the investment industry more than a year ago was marked this week with a small ad in the press.

It revealed that Deutsche, the German banking group, no longer felt it necessary to guarantee to buy units in three European funds run by Morgan Grenfell, the blue-blooded fund manager. The advertisement said: "The funds have been trading successfully for a considerable period of time." This credit facility was set up by the bank after the suspension of the funds last summer, and the subsequent revelations concerning the activities of the funds' manager, Peter Young.

However, despite the resolution of the investment company's problems in the mind of Morgan Grenfell's owner, not all investors with holdings in the three trusts have been compensated.

Just over a year ago, Morgan Grenfell was forced to suspend dealing in the three trusts which were then worth a total of £1.4 billion. The

funds were suspended when it was discovered that they held a high proportion of unquoted stocks. These shares were contributing to extreme volatility in the trusts.

Mr Young was exploiting a grey area in rules concerning the level of unquoted stocks that unit trusts could hold. When the unquoted stock was investigated by the company and regulators, it was difficult to find. Mr Young was suspended from his £300,000-a-year job and the Serious Fraud Office was called in to investigate. When trading in the funds after the three-day suspension restarted, more than £200 million worth of stock was sold by panic-stricken investors, and the price of the units plummeted.

Deutsche Bank stepped in with a credit facility to ensure that the fund had enough cash to meet any redemptions. The bank also bought out £180 million of unquoted stock, and pledged to compensate the investors for losses.

Eventually, five top managers at Morgan Grenfell were sacked.

Frances Davies, head of pooled investment, said that there were about 90,000 unit accounts in the three trusts, and while most of the individual accounts have been compensated, some of those that held stock through nominee accounts have yet to receive compensation.

Nominee accounts will have more than one investor. For example, Skandia has 40,000 investors who have holdings in the Morgan Grenfell European funds via other products — these investors have received compensation.

Ms Davies said: "Around £230 million will be paid out in compensation as a whole." She added that 85 per cent of the compensation money had

been handed out. The fiasco could cost Deutsche Morgan Grenfell £450 million.

One investor who has received compensation is Antony Levi, a 33-year-old fashion agent. He was paid about £200 compensation on his £2,000 investment earlier in the year. Savers could either opt for more units in the funds, or choose the cash. He chose the cash. He is, however, continuing to invest money in the trust. He said: "I thought it was better to keep the investment going. I am taking a long-term view. If I reinvested the money elsewhere, then

would probably incur a whole new set of charges." He said the performance of his European trust had not been particularly good since the crisis last year, but he had decided to continue to hold it. He holds two other of Morgan Grenfell's unit trusts, which he says have performed much better.

"The whole thing would put me off putting all my money with one fund manager again," he said.

Ms Davies said the whole fund had been substantially rebalanced since Mr Young's suspension. A high proportion of the unquoted stock had been sold. She said: "More than 70 per cent of the fund is now in mainstream quoted stocks."

She said the company was working flat out to compensate the remaining investors.



Antony Levi was paid about £200 for his £2,000 investment with Morgan Grenfell

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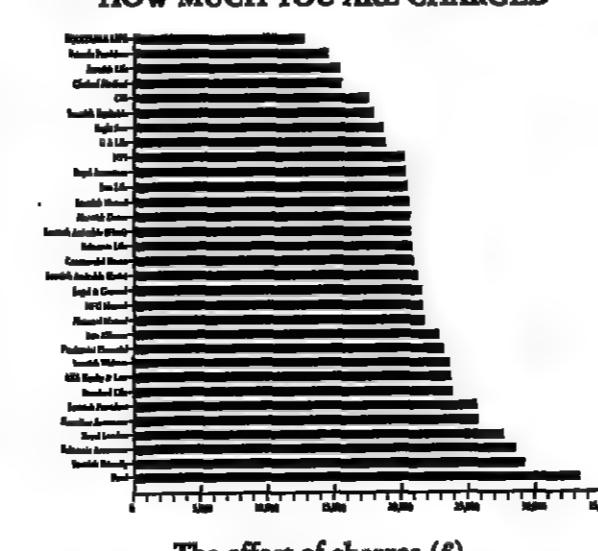
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Shore thing, but CU's personal equity plan holds a small amount of highly speculative Barbadian and Mexican bonds

Age Concern joins the world of corporate bonds

Gavin Lumsden finds some managers risking fund capital

Investing in corporate bond Peps became cheaper this week with new deals from Legal & General and, surprisingly, Age Concern. However, disturbing signs have emerged that some fund managers may be risking investors' capital in their search for a high income.

Investors have poured some £3 billion into corporate bond Peps since their introduction just two years ago, attracted by the chance to earn about 7.5 per cent income tax-free while keeping their capital secure. So far investors have done well out of most corporate bond Peps. According to Micropal, a statistics provider, only one of the 39 corporate bond Peps around two years ago has failed to provide a positive return on a £6,000 investment (the maximum you can put in a Pep in one tax year).

Investors in Aberdeen Global Bond Pep, however, have basically been handed their money back since August 1995. Even if they reinvested the £579 of income back into the fund, they have still been left nursing a £26 loss, a dismal performance. Another seven Peps distributed modest amounts of income but left investors with a capital loss. For instance, investors who put £6,000 in the NPI High Income Bond two years ago would have had £524 income but would have only £5,856 of capital left in the Pep. This kind of capital loss can be a problem because it means there is a smaller pot of money left to generate money.

This still leaves 31 funds that have achieved their aims. Strangely, one of the pack is another fund in the Aberdeen stable. Aberdeen Fixed Interest has actually added £695 of capital and handed out over £1,300 of income. Other strong performers achieving the double whammy of income and capital growth have been M&G Corporate Bond, Henderson Preference & Bond and Commercial Union Monthly Income Plus.

The latter has just been chosen by Age Concern to be its first foray into financial services. Commercial Union's corporate bond Pep is currently yielding a high 7.96 per cent.

and is one of the few Peps to pay monthly. Because of this service, the Pep has been relatively expensive. Age Concern, however, has got the insurer to halve its initial fee to 2 per cent and throw in some life cover. If investors die within five years of taking out the Pep, CU will return the original investment to the estate. Its annual charge, however, remains at 1.25 per cent. Contact: 0800 455 400.

Legal & General also did its bit for investors this week when it renamed its Extra Income Profile Pep simply Corporate Bond Pep and slashed the annual charge from 1.25 per cent to 0.5 per cent. As there was no initial charge, it is now the cheapest corporate bond Pep available. Its nearest rivals are Virgin Income and Fidelity MoneyBuilder Income, which both charge a 0.7 per cent annual fee.

Low charges allow investors to get more for their money without taking on more risk. Cutting the annual fee by 0.75 per cent has enabled L&G to raise the yield on its Corporate Bond Pep by a similar amount to 7.5 per cent.

If it had raised the yield without lowering the charges it would have had to target higher yielding stocks, which are inevitably more risky. In spite of their name corporate bond Peps can invest in a wide range of assets, some of which are more risky than others, and mix overseas stock with more familiar UK investments. In addition to bonds, many of these Peps will include preference shares, which aim to pay a higher dividend to investors, and convertibles, bonds which can be converted into shares at certain times.

Mike Webb, the company's

head of unit trusts, defended the company's practice, although he agreed there was an increased risk to holders' original investment. "We launched the Pep for people with an income requirement and are delivering that income in the most tax-efficient way. The benefit of charging to capital is that we do not have to go for as high-yielding stocks as those Peps which charge to income in order to generate our yield."

He calculated that the running yield was 6.25 per cent before charges were taken, much closer to the GRY figure. To be fair, the Pep is actually in the top 20 of corporate bond Peps delivering income and capital growth. Mr Webb said this reflected the fact that it only invested in A-graded stocks, the top band of investments.

Nevertheless, concerns remain. Britannia Fund Managers' Gilt & Fixed Interest Pep charges the same fees to capital as GRY, but has a yield differential of nearly 1.2 per cent, itself a relatively high figure but much better than GRY's. Britannia says the running yield has risen recently after an increased investment in corporate bonds.

Equally worrying is the Murray Corporate Bond, which in spite of charging to income has a running yield of 8.89 per cent, the highest among all corporate bond Peps, and 1.5 per cent higher than its GRY.

Richard Elliot Lockhart of Murray Johnstone, the fund manager, denies that the company is taking too much risk in its search for income. He says many of the bonds it holds have seen prices fall and yields rise after recent tax changes which have forced City institutions to become sellers.

Whatever the reason, investing in bonds is a complicated business. If you are not seeking particularly high income you are probably best picking a low-cost corporate bond Pep from a fund manager with a track record that takes its fees from the income before passing it on to you.

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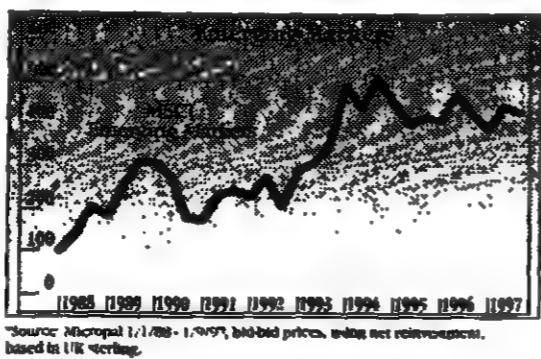
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Clare Stewart explains the science of investment disciplines



George Soros, left, and Warren Buffett, masters of investment, relish the opportunities when markets are uncertain



KENNETH JARECKI

Alchemy for the 20th century

INVESTMENT A GUIDE FOR BEGINNERS

George Soros made a mint betting against the pound in 1992. The famed investor Warren Buffett has cleaned up on numerous occasions to make him one of the wealthiest men in the US.

These and others, such as the late Sir James Goldsmith, who have emerged with pots of gold after forays into the stock market or foreign currency speculation, are frequently described as modern-day alchemists.

Rather like alchemy of the medieval variety, the assumption is often that there is some big secret out there waiting to be discovered. Once you have cracked it, runs the thinking, you can expect to be rich as Croesus as your investments sour in value.

But alchemy, whether using ancient or modern techniques, can be rather more complex. So much depends on adding just the right amount of leg of lamb or wing of bat to the cauldron, and making sure you get the gas mark setting just right.

Stock market science is a complex discipline with numerous areas of specialisation, all of which try to understand and, as far as possible, anticipate key movements in share prices and so provide pointers as to when to pile in and when to sell up.

Traditionally, analysts have come to their conclusions about the value of a share based on a detailed evaluation

of the company's performance. But technical analysts or chartists tend to look at the price first and the explanation after. They look at trends in a company, sector, foreign currency or even the whole stock market's price movement as the basis of their research, that past movements provide the basis for predicting the future, and that long-term patterns can be identified.

Guides such as the *Stock Market Handbook* (Burleigh Publishing, 01453 731173, price £22.99), for example, provide a month-by-month guide to stock market trends which highlight the months that have proved the most and least profitable for investors.

Chartists focus on changes that are driven by the actions of a wide spread of investors, so are less interested in why investors are choosing a particular share to buy or sell than when such trading is taking place and at what price. Such observations are expressed as charts showing price movements in linear or bar-chart form.

A number of patterns within price movements have been identified, which, on the basis of past experience, may indicate that a rising share price is about to peak or that it has bottomed out, hence it is the time to buy or sell that particular stock.

Investment, as with any discipline, has numerous theorists. One particular theory that is often referred to is value investment. In recent times this has been most identified with Warren Buffett, who turned Berkshire Hathaway, his investment vehicle, from a struggling textile business to a conglomerate where profits last year soared to \$2.49 billion.

In 1965, when Mr Buffett took control of Berkshire Hathaway, its shares were traded at about \$18; today its shares are among the most expensive on the US stock market, trading at more than \$40,000 each.

Such is his influence that his current \$2 billion move into US Treasury bills rattled investors, who saw it as a precautionary manoeuvre ahead of a fall on the high-flying stock market. His reputation is built on the success of value investment Buffett-style.

which means looking for companies offering real value that have been overlooked by general buying trends in the market, to look for high earnings and to take a long-term view on shareholdings.

The Sage of Omaha's foresight was shown this week by the \$1.4 billion profit he turned on his stake in Salomon, the US investment bank.

His demonstrably successful approach stands out against the short-termism often seen among speculators and the proverbial City trader solely focused on securing the next bonus package.

Mr Buffett is unconcerned by sudden changes in the stock market. "Investors should love volatility. You like huge swings in the market because that means more stocks will be mispriced. It opens up opportunities," he told his company's annual meeting this year.

Mr Soros is another figure awarded guru status among investors. In 1992 he hit the headlines when his betting against sterling saw the pound knocked out of the European exchange-rate mechanism and netted him around £1 billion.

Now he is involved in a row with the Prime Minister of Malaysia over the activities of currency speculators in the unstable Asian currency markets. He also made news speaking at the International Monetary Conference this week, when he gave warning of an end to the current boom on global stock markets.

Mr Soros's brand of investment science bases decisions on the bigger picture - not on individual stocks but on currency changes and market fluctuations.

He is associated with spotting opportunities at the bottom and top of the market or currency cycles. He says: "I am particularly keen on investment theses that the market is reluctant to accept. These are usually the strongest. Remember the saying 'The market climbs on a wall of worry'."

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Cover for childhood accidents

Most parents would do anything to protect their children. Yet 2.5 million children in Britain are treated in hospital for accidental injury each year. Of these, 10,000 suffer a permanent disability. Now Cigna, the insurance company, is offering accidental injury insurance for children.

The insurer does not claim that its policy, Firstcover, will even begin to compensate for a serious injury, nor will it pay for private medical treatment. But it says that a cash payment can help a family to cope with the stress and extra costs which can occur once medical treatment is finished. The parents may have to take unpaid leave from work, pay for childcare while they make hospital visits or even make modifications to their home to cater for the injured child.

Firstcover costs £2.75 a month for one child, or £5 a month for all the children in the family, which is hardly going to break the bank. But it is still worth considering exactly what cover policyholders get for their money. The policy pays £40 for each day that the insured child spends in hospital.

HIT OR MISS

up to a maximum of 365 days. It also pays out single sums of cash for permanent disabilities of varying severity. For example, £2,000 for facial disfigurement (where the scars affect at least 20 per cent of the face), £10,000 for loss of a finger or big toe and £25,000 for a thumb. Blindness in one eye, total loss of hearing in both ears or a leg below the knee will result in a payout of £50,000.

The maximum payout of £100,000 is for loss of (or loss of the use of) a leg above the knee, a hand or arm, total blindness in both eyes, total organic paralysis and total loss of intellectual capacity.

These benefits seem competitive compared to similar products on the market. However, it excludes dental damage — an injury that is relatively common and likely to incur costs for the parents.

Chris Latham, a chartered insurance practitioner with Byrne Williams, independent financial advisers, thinks Firstcover is a good buy. But he adds: "Adult accident policies often extend free cover to children. It is worth parents checking if their policies already cover their children."

Mohan Moorjani, a member of DBS, the independent financial advisory network, says that parents may find it more cost-effective to buy hospital cash cover for the whole family from a company such as HSA, rather than buying an individual policy for the children.

Score: ★★★★
Products graded from ★ (poor), to ★★★★★ (outstanding).

JILL INSLEY



Playboy financier Bernie Cornfeld, who was dubbed "king of the fund of funds", liked to live the high life

Product offers double whammy of charges

Time could be running out for controversial investment funds that often combine poor value with lousy performance.

Broker funds are effectively "funds of funds" run by independent financial advisers (IFAs) on behalf of their clients. The fund of funds concept was invented by Bernie Cornfeld, the financier, in the late Sixties. However, because they are a portfolio of funds or unit trusts, the individual investor pays two sets of management charges — one levied by the life company and the other by the IFA.

The Personal Investment Authority, the watchdog for small investors, is expected to warn advisers at the end of next month that it intends to tighten up the way such funds are sold.

The funds are so controversial that some IFAs refuse to sell them, saying it is impossible to pretend to be impartial while recommending a product of their own. Graham Hooper, of Chase de Vere Investments, said the double layer of management charges, which often amounts to 3 per cent per annum, is the real headache for investors. He said some funds had already gone out of business after the PIA's announcement earlier this year that it was reviewing existing regulations.

Mr Hooper said: "These funds would have to perform very well to beat other funds which do not have such high charges. Unfortunately broker funds not only have double fees, they also underperform. We made a decision not to have our own broker fund because we felt it would prevent us from being impartial in our advice if we recommended it."

As the small investors' watchdog prepares to tighten up on the sale of 'funds of funds', Marianne Curphey assesses their future

Richard Cockroft, head of market practice and training and competence at the PIA, denied that the PIA intended to put any funds out of business.

"Not all funds have poor performance," he said. "What we want to do is raise the standards of those in the market." The board of the PIA is expected to issue a statement of policy on the issue in the end of October but this will not be legally binding. Any statutory regulations would have to be introduced separately, Mr Cockroft said.

However, Amanda Davidson, a partner with Holden Meehan, the IFA, was sceptical about the concept of broker funds providing good value. "We do not offer them. I believe the attraction for the advisers who do sell them is that they provide a regular income for the IFA involved."

Another problem with the funds is that they are not tax-efficient. Mr Hooper said: "Personal equity plans are much better for investors because they are free of income and capital gains tax."

Stephen Lansdown, joint managing director of the Bristol-based IFA Hargreaves Lansdown, does offer one

offshore broker bond. He expressed "mixed feelings" about the concept. "Clients want advisers to manage their funds for them and switch into and out of sectors to gain the best returns. It makes sense for them to carry out transactions on a pooled basis and as long as the charges are transparent I do not see why they should be banned from the market altogether."

If their performance is poor, clients should vote with their feet and go somewhere else. It is wrong for the PIA to act as judge and jury."

Investors who want to check whether their funds are offering a good or a bad deal can use a yardstick such as the FTSE 100 index or average of UK managed funds.

Chase de Vere has made a comparison of broker funds over a five-year period and has found that even the best performers trail managed life funds.

For example, for the five years to the end of August, this year, broker funds returned an average of £1,723 compared with an average return of £1,936.

According to HSW Hindsight, a company which provides statistical information on trusts and funds, the top broker fund, from Albany, returned £2,119 on an initial investment over five years, while the top managed life fund, Reliance, returned £2,632 over the same period. The figures are based on an initial investment of £1,000 with income reinvested.

The broker fund from Royal & Sun Alliance, Charles Stanley, gave investors a return of £2,021 over the same period, compared with the Hambro Assured managed fund which returned £2,394.

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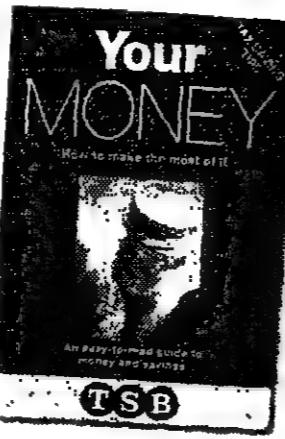
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Snowed under: a good set of clear records will mean you are less likely to be daunted by your tax return and more likely to avoid paying too much

John Givens highlights important issues for people starting up their own business

Taxing times for the self-employed

GO IT ALONE TAX

Becoming self-employed involves keeping many people happy, no one more so than the taxman. Most people who have made the leap from the relative comfort of being on someone else's payroll to being responsible for each penny of income will know there are many things to worry about on setting up a business, particularly in the early months.

But understanding your tax position and what the Inland Revenue expects of you before you start your new business should be made a priority. Not only will it make you more confident about being self-employed, but it will also free your mind and time to concentrate on other important issues.

Taking responsibility for your own taxation can be daunting and complicated, although with a little bit of time and effort it need not be.

The Inland Revenue has teamed up with the VAT Office and the National Insurance Contributions Agency to produce an easy to understand booklet called *Starting Your Own Business*. It outlines the basic rules relating to income tax, national insurance contributions and VAT, giving you all the information you need to know to get your business up and running, including forms to let the Revenue know that you are self-employed.

ALLOWANCES

Self-employed people are entitled to claim the same tax allowances as those who are employed and have their tax affairs looked after by their company. Everyone can earn up to £4,045 in a tax year — which runs from April 6 until April 5 the next year — without paying any income tax at all. In addition there is a married

couple's allowance of £1,830 a year which can be claimed by the husband, wife or split between the two and gives tax relief at a rate of 15 per cent.

This means a married taxpayer claiming the allowance would have their tax bill reduced by a set amount of £274.50 a year, or £22.87 a month.

After your personal allowance has been taken into account, the first £4,100 of taxable income is charged at the lower rate of 20p in the pound, which means as an unmarried person you can earn £8,145 a year before you start to pay tax at the standard rate, currently 23p in the pound.

All your earnings are taxed at the standard rate on income of between £4,101 and £26,100 a year. After that earnings attract tax at a higher rate, 40p in the pound. By adding in your personal allowance of £4,045 this effectively means you will only become a higher-rate taxpayer if you earn more than £30,145 in a tax year.

EXPENSES

Self-employed taxpayers can offset certain expenses against income tax, which means at the end of the tax year the

total of all these payments from your annual income before you calculate your tax bill.

Other expenses are not so straightforward, however. For example, the taxman will allow you to claim the cost of

entertaining staff but not customers and normal domestic

expenses like food and clothing are strictly off the menu for tax deductible allowances.

If you run your business from home rather than an office, you can claim a portion of household expenses such as rent, rates, council tax, telephone bills and heating and lighting against income tax, although you will need to satisfy the Inland Revenue that the percentage you claim is a reasonable reflection.

RECORDS

Everyone who is self-employed must keep records of all income and expenditure to show the taxman. If you don't you may end up paying more tax than you need to or, worse still, the Inland Revenue may launch a full-scale investigation into your business's tax affairs.

DEADLINES

Under the new self-assessment system you are obliged to fill in a tax return every year, showing details of income and expenditure.

After this you have two options. If you want the taxman to calculate your tax bill for you then you must make sure your completed tax forms are sent to the Inland Revenue by September 30 in the year following the end of the tax year on April 5.

If you want to calculate your tax liability by yourself, you have until January 31. If you are having problems with your form this weekend, ring the Institute of Chartered Ac-



JOHN GIVENS

Bagnall: tax calculations proved complicated

Call in the professionals

Emma Bagnall knew exactly how she would cope with her potential tax minefield when she became self-employed at the beginning of April — she called in an accountant.

The 32-year-old graphic artist decided to turn freelance after she was made redundant by a tabloid national newspaper after just four months. She was concerned that during the 1996-97 tax year she had worked as an employee, earned other freelance income and spent a period of time not earning at all when she was studying in Florence.

Rather than face the trauma of explaining this to the taxman, she decided to leave it to the professionals.

After handing over expense receipts and details of her income, Emma, of Stoke Newington, London, let her accountant get on with things. She said: "I don't understand all the ins and outs of how to calculate my tax, although I have a fairly good idea.

"However, my situation was slightly complicated, so I thought I would get an accountant to do my tax return for me. It saved a lot of trouble and effort and made sure I got what I am entitled to and pay the right amount of tax."

Emma, who is currently on assignment at Cover, the newly launched general interest magazine, paid £240 for the service and is now expecting a tax refund, although her accountant has told her this is likely to be in the region of £80 and not the £2,000 she had

hoped for. Also, like a lot of self-employed people, Emma needs to reassess her pension arrangements now she is going it alone.

Although she took out a personal pension with Friends Provident when she was 25, paying net contributions of £100 a month, this was frozen when she joined the occupational scheme of a former employer and she has yet to restart her contributions.

She is also looking at the need to insure herself against being unable to work because of illness or accident, with permanent health insurance and critical illness cover being considered to provide an income if the worst came to the worst.

JOHN GIVENS

Bagnall: tax calculations proved complicated

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Finer points of a borderline case of mis-selling

From Mr P. E. Perham

Sir. Am I alone in having difficulty in assessing the correct methods of deciding if a case exists for pension mis-selling compensation? Five years ago I transferred to a personal pension following redundancy. The projected benefits for the personal pension gave figures far in excess of the frozen final-salary scheme of my previous employer due to growth rates and annuity rates being laid down by Lutro at that time. Several things have occurred since that make me think I might be worse off.

Pension projections five years ago were based on annual growth rates of 8.5 per cent and 13 per cent. More recently, however, due to reduced inflation, these have been reduced to 6 per cent and 12 per cent, and projections use a reduced annuity rate.

I have achieved a 6 per cent growth rate on my pension and am aware that I need a 12 per cent rate to meet the final-salary scheme of my previous

employer. Assuming an optimistic 3 per cent terminal bonus, I would be a borderline case. We now have tax concessions to be removed, which will probably mean a failure to meet the 9 per cent in the future (ie, certainly worse off).

If future inflation, growth rates, annuity rates and terminal bonuses plus varying tax rates are so flexible and unknown, can someone tell me on what basis pension holders should assess if they are a case for compensation? Is the real reason that pension providers are dragging their heels over compensation due to the fact that it is an impossible task?

As an aside perhaps someone can also tell me how Westminster can justifiably put pressure on companies to compensate when much of the situation is due to government encouragement in the first place and possibly upon the latest Gordon Brown "raid".

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP PERHAM,
18 The Causeway,
Petersfield, Hampshire.

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Nationwide rates itself



The small print adds: "...than we did in 1947"



From Mr & Mrs T. C. Fisher

Sir. My wife and I have been investors with the Nationwide for a number of years as well as recently having our mortgage with them.

We noticed in your article (Carphaggers pause to regroup, September 6) that a spokesman for Nationwide said that "we pay better saving rates". This simply is not the case. Recent press adverts show that the Nationwide rates lag up to nearly 1 per cent under

competitors. Our comment to the Nationwide is that investors are paying dearly for the slightly lower mortgage rate. As we retired early last year this loss of income is important to us and we feel Nationwide is at serious fault with its investment rates policy.

Yours faithfully,
T.C. & A.L. FISHER,
"Kellaton",
Devons Road,
Cary Park,
Babbacombe,
Torquay, Devon.

Pensioners deserve to keep their Pep benefits

From Dr R. Law

Sir, I believe that personal equity plans (Peps) should continue unaltered for the present generation of State old age pensioners, and offering the current tax reliefs. This benefit would thus gradually wither on the vine with this special generation of pensioners, many of whom fought for our country's freedom in military service for over five years, often far from home.

Yours faithfully,
RON LAW,
1 Beechworth Close, NW3.

Abbey habit is spreading

From Mr S. W. McIntock

Sir, Karen Zagor's article (An expensive new Abbey habit, September 6) claims that Abbey National account charges are, so far, limited to holders of the Instant Plus Account. Abbey has promised not to bring in similar charges for the 1.6 million customers of its main account.

I have a bank account with Abbey National and the statement dated July 31, 1997, was endorsed with a notice that, from September 3, a £1 charge would be levied on mini-statements requested at a bank counter. It does, therefore, appear that, at least as

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Direct Line Instant Access Account	ANNUAL GROSS RATE
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£13,000-£19,999	6.75%
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Source: Direct Line Financial Services. For further information about either of the Direct Line products listed above, please phone the appropriate number above quoting ref. TTBB24

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YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. APRs variable and quoted and calculated on the assumption that the mortgage rate applicable during the fixed rate period (which will run from the date interest is first charged on the mortgage) will apply for the full term of the loan. However, the rate is variable and, from 1.1.2002, the Woolwich's prevailing standard variable mortgage rate will, in fact, apply. These terms apply only where a written offer of advance was issued on or after 25.9.97 and the mortgage completed by 28.02.98. Typical example based on an endowment mortgage interest rate of 6.99% and a purchase price of £67,000, a couple taking out a mortgage of £65,000 from which a Higher Percentage Advance Fee of £1081.25 will be deducted) over 25 years (where the amount of the advance is 93% of the Woolwich's valuation of the property) would pay interest of £378.63 per month gross (300 payments). Accrued interest £189.31. Valuer's fee £1.65. Application fee £3.60. Homewise premium £370. Solicitor's mortgage charges £126. Deeds Administration Fee payable on redemption £6 and a single repayment of capital of £65,000. Total amount payable £179,054.31. 6.99% 7.5% APR. The example assumes the mortgage starts in the middle of the month, a minimum guaranteed death benefit of £65,000 and a term of 25 years for the endowment policy. A first charge over your property will be required as security. For loans other than repayment loans, a suitable endowment policy, PEP or pension plan will also be required. A suitable level term assurance policy will also be required for PEP or pension plan mortgages. Where the mortgage exceeds the Woolwich's normal maximum percentage advance of 75% additional security will be required for which a Higher Percentage Advance Fee will be payable. If the mortgage is either redeemed in full or partly transferred to another scheme before 1.1.2003, a fee equivalent to 6 months' interest at the rate payable at the time of repayment will be charged. Remortgages available up to 90% loan to value. All mortgages are subject to status, valuation and a minimum age of 18. A written quotation is available on request from any branch or from Woolwich plc, Dept LS, Wadding Street, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7RF. Woolwich plc represents only Woolwich Life and Woolwich Unit Trust Managers, which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for life assurance, unit trust and pension business. Registered office: Wadding Street, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7RR. Registered in England no. 3295699. Woolwich plc adheres to the principles of the Code of Mortgage Lending Practice. Copies of the code are available on request. PFPMS

Lizanne Rose shows how precautions plus insurance keep theft and fraud at bay



Making life more secure



Going to college or university for the first time should be an adventure — but not for the wrong reasons. Thieves often target student homes because they know freshers are more interested in having fun than bothering about house security.

Students do need insurance for the contents of their homes and rooms and often underestimate the cost of replacing belongings stolen or damaged. You may be covered under your parents' policy at their home. Nationwide and Royal & Sun Alliance offer cover to students if their parents are insured with them.

Some policies can be extended for a fixed sum: Eagle Star will charge £25 for a student to be added to the Homestar policy (although you will only be insured for £500-worth of possessions).

Always lock your room or house because evidence of a forced entry into your lodgings is normally required to make an insurance claim.

If you cannot be added to your parents' policy, you will pay more for living in an area classified as "high risk", such as parts of Manchester, Teesside, Newcastle and Liverpool.

If you are living in a shared house or flat in one of these areas, you can expect to pay £76 for £2,000 basic contents cover with Campus Insurance. With Endsleigh, it is £84. If you flat is in a "low risk" area, such as Plymouth, Swansea or Reading, the premium is £34 with Campus, £37 with Endsleigh. The hall of residence premium for all areas is £24 with both Campus and Endsleigh. Medical Insurance Agency (MIA Group) charges £22.

You need to confirm whether your computer equipment is covered. Campus Insurance includes £500-worth of computer cover with its basic policy. Students must buy Endsleigh's basic policy before qualifying for computer cover. Computers can be covered on their own through Royal & Sun Alliance. You will normally have to pay the first £25 of any claim.

■ PLASTIC CARD FRAUD:

Under-25s are particularly at risk from plastic-card crime, mainly because of carelessness, according to Card Watch, the banking industry's card fraud prevention campaign.

According to its research, 14 per cent of people allow someone else to borrow their card; 15 per cent rarely or never destroy their card when it expires; and 24 per cent put their wallets or purses on a bar or table in the pub.

Report lost or stolen cards to your bank or building society immediately.

■ TELEPHONE BILLS:

Nothing is more likely to cause friction in a shared house than working out the telephone bill. Ask BT for a fully itemised bill to keep track. A BT Chargecard enables you to phone from call boxes without needing cash. Calls will be charged to your parents' phone bill.

Many students now have mobile phones. Be careful to keep a close watch on your phone, as it is an easy item to steal. Use the mobile phone lock, if yours has one — a PIN number has to be entered before the phone can be used.

Mercury One 2 One has launched its Up 2 You pay-as-you-go digital mobile phone service. This has no minimum-term contract, no monthly service charge or monthly bills. Airtime is purchased in advance using a voucher system. However, it will cost you £109.99 RRP for the Up 2 You Pack with handset and calls are charged at a very steep 50p per minute.

■ TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT:

Transport costs can be high, especially if you live in London where a single journey on the Tube is £1.20. Student rail and coach cards are well worth buying. A four-year Young Person's Railcard is being offered free by Midland Bank when you open an account there.

Visa has just launched TravelMoney, a new cash-machine card you preload with your holiday money. You can then withdraw it from any of Visa's 341,000 cash machines in 112 countries without having to convert currency in each country you visit. Call 01733 318900.

■ PARENTS:

In spite of a maximum parental grant of £2,160 per year, students can leave further education owing around £5,000 in student loans.

A guide is available to help parents to plan ahead for their child's education and further education. It offers advice on how to fund education — nursery, private school, and university — and has tips on money management, paying less tax on investments and teaching children to handle money. Available free from SunLife. Call 01733 318900 Mon-Fri.



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Classic way to save cash is to buy an ageing car

Merryn Myatt on the best options for students who want to go out without going broke

Learning how to budget is now as much a part of student life as expanding your knowledge of your chosen discipline. But you can cut your transport costs and cut a dash around campus in a car. The cheapest option and the one with the highest cool quotient is to buy a car made and registered before 1971. The trade calls them classics, others would call them bangers. Either way, they are exempt from road tax, so there's a £145-a-year saving to start with.

For £1,500 you should be able to get a model in reasonable condition, MoT'd and structurally sound.

Remember, old cars were made before built-in obsolescence became an article of faith with manufacturers. Why else do you see so many old Beetles and Morris Minors around?

The best place to start your search is a classic car show, which will not only give you some idea of the best models and prices, but will also put you in touch with a cheap source of replacement parts for later.

Once you know which cars interest you, it's well worth investing £12 to £20 joining the relevant enthusiasts' club. The cost of the membership will be more than repaid by the knowledge of other members and their delight in sharing it.

Reputable dealers will always have an old banger or two taken in part exchange. Offer him half the asking price. The dealer probably can't be bothered to shift it anywhere else.

Buying from the small ads in the back of classic car magazines is only for the knowledge-able. Although it is an offence for advertisers not to point out a car's faults, enforcing your rights may be difficult.

There is little point in buying a cheap car if you cannot afford to insure it. Premiums for 17- and 18-year-olds — assuming you can find a company that will even give you a quote — can reach four figures, often making the insurance lud-

icrously more than the value of the ageing wreck that it is supposed to be protecting.

Endsleigh, the insurance arm of the NUS, claims to be able to give 80 per cent of students a better deal than they could find anywhere else.

Nicola Baker, an 18-year-old from South Wales, will shortly be heading to Newcastle University to study for a degree in mathematics and accountancy. She approached eight insurance companies with her 13-year-old Ford Fiesta, valued at £750. Three refused to quote for comprehensive insurance for under-21s and four refused for third party, fire and theft.

Endsleigh quoted Nicola £482.17 for comprehensive cover and £264.25 for third party, fire and theft — both £100 less than the next best.

If your car is a "classic", you

may be able to improve on Endsleigh's quote by arranging your insurance through one of the hundreds of specialist classic car insurance companies that advertise heavily in the back of classic car magazines. They achieve their discounts, however, by catering for genuine enthusiasts who garage their cars and drive a limited mileage. They are not especially overjoyed by teenage student motorists, but they will look more favourably on your case if you are a member of the relevant enthusiasts' club, which, incidentally, can often arrange still further insurance discounts.

With thorough shopping around, you should be able to pick up comprehensive insurance on a 25-year-old car, with limited mileage, worth about £1,500, for £300 to £350.

With fuel consumption — certainly on the smaller engined cars — everything you could hope for, and parts available ludicrously cheaply through clubs, magazines or a breaker's yard, your main financial problem will be depreciation.

Well, not quite. The Austin A30 cost £507 when launched in 1951, and the Ford Capri was £890.7s 10d in 1969, so you never know, you might even make some money when you come to sell at the end of your course.

STUDENT FINANCE

NICOLA BAKER discovered that the insurance arm of the NUS offered her a good deal



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Ford Cortina MkII GT	66-70	£1,200	£400	
Morris Minor 1000 Saloon	58-62	£1,200	£220	
Morris Minor 1000 Saloon	62-71	£1,400	£250	
Morris Minor 1000 Traveller	58-62	£1,400	£225	
Morris Minor 1000 Traveller	62-71	£1,500	£250	
Triumph Herald 12/50 Saloon	63-67	£275	£225	
Triumph Vitesse 1600 Saloon	52-68	£1,200	£475	
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LITTLE HEROES 52

Graham Searjeant on share prospects for small companies

WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



Millions of workers to go it alone

Self-employment is a growth area, with some 3.3 million people now working for themselves, and the figure is set to soar over the next decade as more companies use contract or casual staff.

Emma Bagnall, left, a graphic designer, is one of this new army of workers with a host of accompanying financial problems — organising tax, arranging pensions, negotiating with bank managers.

Go It Alone, a new Weekend Money series, will tackle every aspect of self-employment, including arranging cover against ill-health and accidents, and how to price your services.

Ignorance of the tax rules has meant that many self-employed people have found the new self-assessment tax returns a headache. This week, on page 58, we explain what the taxman will allow the self-employed to claim and how to put your tax affairs in order.

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A question of yields. New bond Peps compared

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Retirement gamble. How to pick an annuity

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

Pensions claims hit crisis point

Caroline Merrell finds funds and deadlines for mis-selling compensation are severely stretched

The pensions mis-selling crisis deepened this week as it was revealed that financial regulators were urgently reviewing the scope of the Investors Compensation Scheme (ICS) — the investor safety net set up by the Government to protect the clients of financial companies that disappear.

Overall, the costs of compensating those who were encouraged by life insurance salesmen and financial advisers to leave or not join their occupational schemes in favour of taking out a personal pension already look to be greater than the £4 billion originally estimated.

Policyholders who were mis-sold plans by financial advisers that have gone out of business or left the industry have to be compensated through the ICS — a scheme run by the regulators and paid for by the industry. The scope of the scheme is limited to £48,000 per compensation claim and to total claims of £100 million in any one year.

Claims against these firms are already beginning to mount. The Personal Investment Authority (PIA), the watchdog, has already found 7,000 possible cases of mis-selling, and it still has to

analyse 168,000 cases. The ICS estimates that it could have to pay out on at least 16,000 compensation cases.

A spokesman for the scheme claims that it had looked at compensation costs, and estimated them to be an average of £9,000 per case, bringing the price of sorting out these particular ones to £144 million — more than the entire amount that the ICS has paid out since it was set up in 1988.

Last time the ICS looked as though it was going to run out of cash, the Treasury stepped in with a lifeline, to ensure that all investors could be compensated. The Treasury said: "We have not really considered what to do yet, as it is still a hypothetical situation."

The ICS spokesman said: "It is not a case that we will pay out to investors one day, and then stop paying out on the following day because we have reached the £100 million limit."

The £48,000 limit on individual compensation claims is also being looked at by regulators. Compensation for those who were mis-sold a personal pension by a direct salesman

rather than a financial adviser that has vanished, will not be capped in this way. For instance, Pearl has paid out compensation of £500,000 to one victim of mis-selling. If this victim had bought his pension from a now defunct financial adviser, the ICS would not be able to pay out the full amount.

The painful process of reinstating those who were encouraged to give up their company schemes is only just beginning. The figures are astounding. The Treasury estimates that a total of around two million people could have been mis-sold a personal pension — one in three of all personal pensions sold.

The ICS spokesman said: "It is not a case that we will pay out to investors one day, and then stop paying out on the following day because we have reached the £100 million limit."

Companies are already nearly one year over the original deadline set by the Securities and Investments Board (SIB) for sorting out the

priority cases. Only two fifths of these cases have been reviewed and 73,000 offered compensation totalling £452 million. Despite extreme pressure from Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, some companies look set to miss a revised set of crucial deadlines set by the Government. Among those which look likely to miss the deadline is the Prudential, which has the highest number of mis-selling cases, at 60,000.

Life insurance companies

are hoping to speed up the privatisation process by offering guaranteed schemes — these are legally binding offers that policyholders will suffer no financial loss as a result of pension mis-selling.

Pearl, Legal & General and the Prudential are offering such schemes.

Although these have been criticised by lawyers acting on behalf of pension mis-selling victims, another ten companies have applied for authorisation to offer the plans. Norwich Union is tackling its problems by promising to restructure pension mis-selling victims. Again this has the effect of rapidly reducing its figures.

Pressing for action after bad deal

Jayne Carvallo had the unfortunate experience of encountering an employee of NatWest while standing in the queue of her local branch of the bank in South London. She had worked for the local authority for 15 years, but had decided to move down to London to take up a job with a housing association. As an employee of the housing association she was not entitled to join an occupational scheme. She said: "The man from NatWest said that taking out a pension would be a good way of earning extra money in retirement. He said it was a new way of saving money. It seemed like a good idea at the time."

The bank advised her to transfer her pension into a personal pension from Scottish Life in 1992. After a year working in London she moved back to the North of England in work for the local authority again. Her new job entitled her to join an occupational scheme.

She was alerted to the fact

that she could have been mis-sold a pension from the press and television programmes and contacted NatWest in 1994.

After a meeting between herself, NatWest and Unison, her union, last year, the bank agreed that she had been mis-sold a personal pension, although NatWest did claim that the bank had tried to prevent the transfer from going ahead.

To add insult to injury last week she received a letter from NatWest saying that because she was not dead or retired she was considered to be a non-priority case. NatWest said it would take a further year to compensate her — four years after she initially complained.

NatWest said: "We could compensate Ms Carvallo tomorrow, but we are still waiting for the scheme to provide us with information, and they are still waiting for clarification from the Department of Environment on certain matters."

CAROLINE MERRELL



Jayne Carvallo faces a year-long wait for compensation

Analysts expect a Rock-steady debut

Shares in Northern Rock, the demutualising building society which makes its stock market debut on Wednesday, could begin trading in a range of 410p to 460p, according to forecasts by some analysts. This follows strong rises in the share prices of banks and converted building societies in the market yesterday. At the top end of the scale, this could yield as much as £2,300 to each member.

Institutions and pension funds have been placing advance orders for the shares and City Index, the financial bookmaker, is currently quoting a price

range of between 423p and 433p. This is 20p up on the range earlier this week.

Some analysts feel the shares would be fairly priced even at 500p, bringing each member £2,500. John Leonard, of Salomon Brothers' banking research team, says he is a buyer at 425p or less.

The market seems undaunted by news that more than 40 per cent of members intend to sell their shares immediately. Justin Urquhart Stewart, a director of Barclays Stockbrokers, recommends members hold their 500 shares. Jeremy Barstone, head of research at NatWest Stockbrokers, said the opening share

price could be around 410p, "provided there are no shocks in the market between now and Wednesday".

Northern Rock's share of the UK mortgage market is almost 3 per cent, compared with the Halifax's 20 per cent. Half of Northern Rock's new business comes from remortgaging.

There have also been bid rumours. Virgin, Marks & Spencer, Australian National Bank and Australian Mutual Provident have all been suggested as possible buyers.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

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Responding to the day's events with an appropriate cartoon is one of the most difficult newspaper jobs . . .

Continued from page 1
observer of political wildlife and also gives no hint of Brookes's professional origins.

Before he first picked up a brush in anger, Brookes was being trained in another form of precision targeting: as a pilot in the RAF. The son of a service family, he joined up full of enthusiasm after leaving school, but even on the first day he was the odd man out. Of all those expected to manoeuvre huge blocks of steel delicately at high speeds through the atmosphere, Brookes remembers, "I was the only one who couldn't drive. I wasn't in the least mechanical. I suppose I should have realised it wasn't for me."

He persevered and learnt to fly RAF jets solo, although not always on the prescribed path. "I used to get lost all the time. Having flown myself and knowing what I did, I'm now terrified of flying. I took the family to the US this year and couldn't sleep the night before."

The time in the RAF was, however, far from wasted. As well as the camaraderie of service life, there was an opportunity to indulge lights that had previously been hidden under bushels. A nascent talent for drawing, which had never been properly tapped at boarding school, was directed in the RAF towards stage set designs and cartoons. Brookes's artistic bent gave rise to suspicions that he was "bolshevik" but also secured him a safe passage out of uniform and into art school.

After a year's foundation course in Manchester, he went to the Central School of Art in London, where he was a contemporary of Posy Simmonds. It was the satire boom of the Swinging Sixties, "wonderful, a liberation after the RAF", and although Brookes was studying to be a graphic designer he found himself producing illustrations and cartoons for magazines such as New Society. An apprenticeship with a graphic designer turned into a studio-share as Brookes found his extracurricular illustrations were starting to overwhelm the demands of his day job.

Although he did not then plan to become a full-time producer of free-

standing cartoons, Brookes was a disciple of some of the profession's household gods. He remains a particular fan of Illingworth and Pont, the 1950s and 1930s cartoonists, for their drawing style as much as their humour. Brookes's other influences and enthusiasms extended backwards through Heath Robinson to Rowlandson and Hogarth, whose first-edition prints he has collected. Although happy to accept the challenge of illustrating work, Brookes's natural bent was towards cartooning.

A freelance for much of the 1970s, Brookes was lured to *The Times* in the 1980s by Harry Evans, the then Editor. Hired to illustrate others' articles, Brookes occasionally enjoyed the freedom to give his slant on events with freestanding cartoons; but it was only with the accession of Peter Stothard to the Editor's chair in 1992 that Brookes took on the responsibility of providing a daily political cartoon.

The need to come up with a satirical slant on the day's events regularly prompts readers to ask if he ever runs out of ideas, but the deadline imposes its own discipline. "You just have to deliver," he explains self-deprecatingly, "and accept that some ideas are more duff than others."

Most recently he found it difficult to come up with an appropriate cartoon on the day of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales and although his representation of the Queen of Hearts was tasteful and poignant, he still believes it was "inadequate to the situation".

Tragic moments do not always find him raffing at the drawing-board. Events such as Dunblane have sometimes inspired his best work and Brookes believes "they have to be done — situations like that demand a response from journalists. Others write, I draw. After Dunblane, half the readers who responded thought it was distasteful to have a cartoon on the subject, but half expressed gratitude that a cartoon had captured their feelings."

Another cartoon which drew venomous complaints concerned the bomb on a bus in the Aldwych, central London,

soon after an Israeli bus-bombing. Brookes had the figure of death standing at a bus stop saying: "Strange how you can wait ages for one, then they all come together."

"The problem there is that you are making a serious point about the increasing incidence of this particular kind of atrocity using black humour," he said. "People think you are being frivolous when the exact opposite is the case."

Brookes, however, spends most days drawing humour from folly rather than a message from tragedy. He sees his task as "trying to get behind the posturing, sorting out the wood from the trees and getting to the rub of the issue or a personality in politics."

Some readers detect bias in every line but Brookes is unapologetic. "A cartoon is a comment, it can't be ambivalent. It may be a sort of arrogance for me to express my opinion, but it's satisfying when I've got a point across and readers respond favourably — or even unfavourably. I quite like it when readers complain."

Politicians responding favourably is a different matter. Although it is always nice to be noticed, Brookes is sometimes perplexed by his victims' vanity — seeing any portrait, however wounding, as a trophy. Not all politicians, however, react in the same way. Tony Blair, although careful not to express his own opinion too directly, confided in Brookes that his father was a fan. Peter Mandelson, introduced to the man who styled him "blossom" for one *Nature Notes*, restricted himself to a haughty look but confesses now to a sneaking admiration: "His witty and incisive cartoons particularly on Saturday mornings are always entertaining and amusing, if not sometimes a little below the belt. His portrayal of this summer's occasionally stormy events provided light relief and a diversion from other, less welcome, sections of *The Times*."

If there are politicians who strongly dislike Brookes's work (and some approached for comments maintained a diplomatic silence), then they are wise enough to realise that complain-

ing could only make matters worse. Old hands are inclined to make a show of their enthusiasm, however sincere. When Baroness Thatcher was depicted as a Rabid Old Bat (*Federalis anatema*), her aides were on the phone first thing to order the original. "Oh yes, she did like the bat," one gushed, prompting Brookes to wonder if his pen nib would ever penetrate her thick skin.

Ann Widdecombe, the former Home Office minister, collects all her appearances, whether she is depicted as a religious fundamentalist or the Black Widowcombe Spider (*Something's off the night*). She accepts Brookes has been tough on the Tories but says: "Cartoonists will always be caustic about those in power, but I do still like his work. After all, I wouldn't spend good money on it otherwise." Ken Clarke, the former Chancellor, writes "charming" personal notes and Brookes's work is part of a formidable collection of political art in the Clarke home. The Treasury team which works with Gordon Brown, his Labour successor, put in a bid for a cartoon of its boss but never followed it through. Brookes has a simple explanation for the different reactions of politicos: "Perhaps vanity is a Tory vice."

If so, it is not restricted to politicians. One of Brookes's best cartoons earlier this year was a portrayal of Mr Portillo, quiffed, big-lipped and brooding, as Mick Jagger. Mr Portillo was amused and flattered enough to want to buy it. So was Mr Jagger. The Rolling Stone's purchase was the eloquent tribute of one Sixties artist still going strong to another.

● From today, Peter Brookes's *Nature Notes* will appear opposite the Letters page in the news section every Saturday.
● *Nature Notes* is published by Little, Brown on Thursday at £10. An accompanying exhibition of the original cartoons opens on October 14 at the Chris Beetles Gallery, 8-10 Ryder Street, London SW1 (0171-839 7551).
● There will also be a special limited edition of *Nature Notes*, bound in full leather, with an additional drawing signed by Peter Brookes, priced at £100. For details, write to: Founding Press, 61-63 Lant Street, London SE1 1QN.



Peter Brookes: "It's satisfying when readers react. I quite like it when they complain"

Wines which age shall not wither

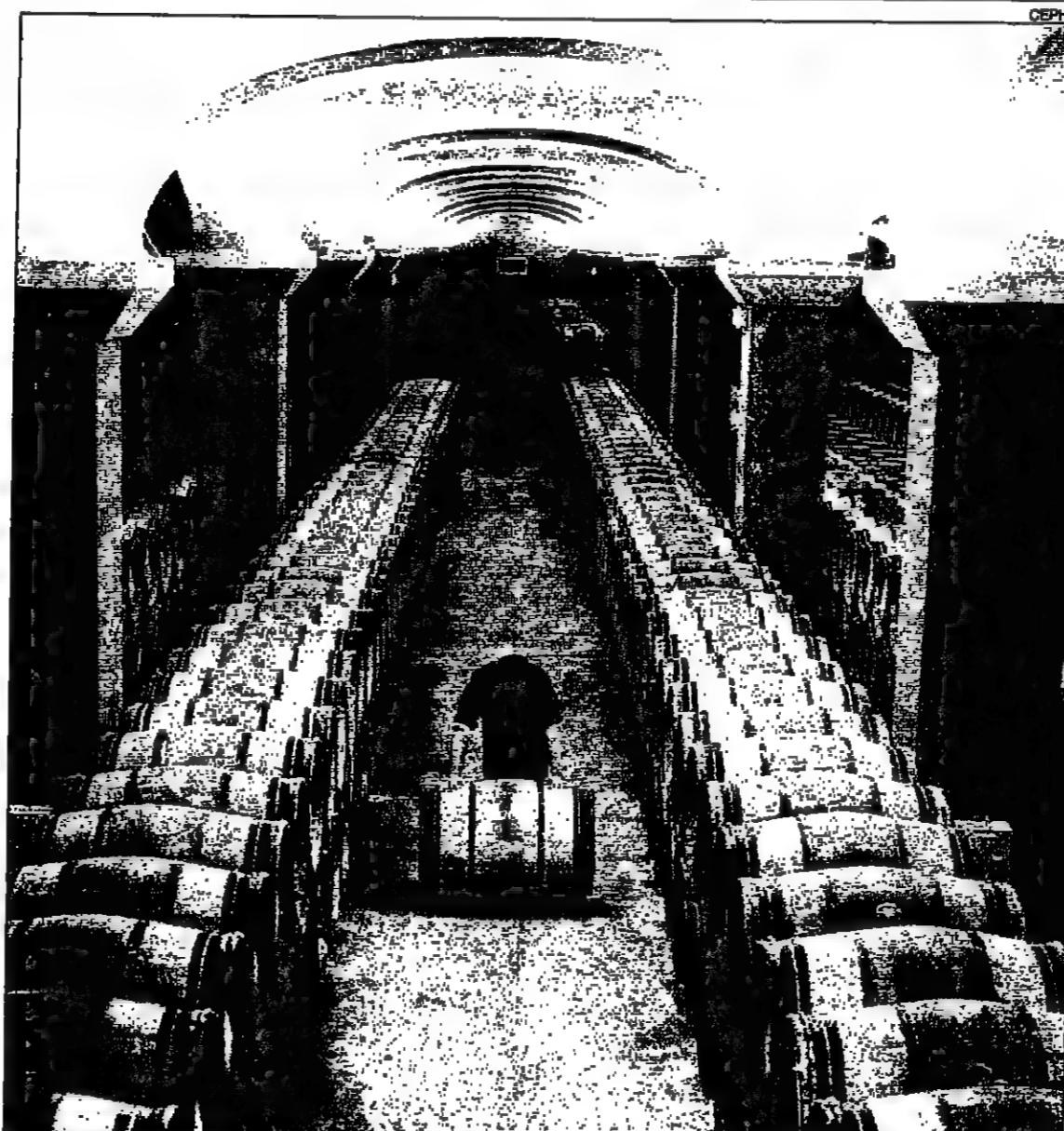
The white wine revolution of the late 1970s, driven by salesmen of refrigeration plants and resulting in super-clean fruity flavours on to which oakiness was rather ineptly grafted, was followed by a revolution in red winemaking. This was inspired by the fact that some of the world's most influential producers of red wine, notably in Bordeaux, gradually came to realise that long-term storage of wine was becoming a distinctly minority sport, fraught with practical difficulties in an age when so many people live in centrally heated apartments.

The excessively tannic, often rather acid style that had been traditional for young red bordeaux may have inconvenienced nobody in an Edwardian age when it was normal to keep such wines in a private cellar for several decades until they tasted more supple, but it was at odds with the pace of late-20th-century life.

The result was a sea change in the style of red bordeaux and other red wines, resulting in much deeper-coloured, more intensely flavoured wines that were at the same

time softer and gentler to taste young. Thanks to anti-rot sprays that took the panic out of picking times, grapes were allowed to ripen more fully and sumptuously, so the wines became notably lower in acidity and the tannins in the grape skins, stalks and pips were also riper and less harsh-tasting. Once picked, the grapes began to be sorted much more rigorously to eliminate rotten or unripe grapes.

I have noticed over the past few years that the red wine faults have changed. In the old days there were too many mean, thin, under-ripe wines but today the disappointments are most likely to be deep-coloured but unbalanced because the colour, leached out of the grape skins by long maceration (or possibly even



Roll on change: red winemakers realised modern drinkers' centrally heated homes made storage difficult

physical concentration) is not matched by a similar intensity of appealing ripe fruit.

The new, softer generation of red wines, especially classed-growth bordeaux has not met with universal acclaim. Those with cellarfuls of more attenuated, old-fashioned counterparts had a vested interest in wondering aloud whether these new wines would last. It is still too early to answer that. But the question becomes less relevant with every year. Nobody I've ever met is seriously buying wine for their children, let alone their grandchildren. All that seems to be demanded of great wine today is that it has a life of between ten and 20 years, and sometimes not even that.

Red bordeaux is the largest single component of my relatively small cellar, which is full to bursting with about 100 cases. As well as the cellar, I draw from a giant wine rack under the stairs deep enough to store two bottles in each of its 120 holes. This is my pending tray, where I put wines without the sort of future that requires cellaring, as well as serious bottles that I can always put my hands on.

There are certain wines that I seem to drink almost as soon as I buy them. This is true of the odd case of particularly successful pinot noir from Martinborough in New Zealand. Truly successful New World pinots tend to run out of their cardboard cases and on to the dinner table, perhaps because I know how much pleasure they can give — and how unlikely they are to make

my fortune as investments. The same is true of fine alsace from the likes of Faller, Trimbach and Scheit. Trimbach's Riesling Clos Ste Hune is the classic example of slow-maturing alsace white, with so many admirers of its unimpeachably steely purity that its price has been rising out of the "simple pleasure" category.

Plumper rieslings, superior pinot blancs, sleeker pinot gris and the most savoury gewürztraminer are some of the wines that disappear fastest from my racks. These full-bodied, scented whites seem so useful, either as aperitifs or with all sorts of food — even quite sturdy "red wine" sort of food, although too many of them nowadays taste sweeter than I'm expecting.

Top-quality German wine is one of my cellar's specialties, representing a minority but, I assure you, very refined taste. Those of us who know that a bottle of mature Mosel riesling is just as fine an aperitif as any champagne are not numerous, but we all know that these wines demand time.

One of the most sublime was a 17-year-old, a JJ Prüm Wehlener Sonnenluhr Auslese 1971, opened on New Year's Eve 1988, that was almost gold but still had the hint of green that can betray Mosel origins to the eye alone. It was still tingling with life and youth (Prüm's wines almost fizz in their very early years) but it definitely had a mature bouquet rather than a youthful aroma. The slow evolution

of my cellar is entirely due to my Mosel riesling enthusiasm coinciding with one for top-quality red bordeaux, for these two sorts of wine mature at more or less the same, extremely stately, pace. I wish I had more bottles of Mosel 1983 left. I should padlock my 1980s, and am slightly embarrassed by my inability to keep the powerful wines made by the new stars of the Pfalz, such as Müller-Catoir and Rainer Lingenfelder, unopened in my wine rack for more than a few weeks. These have much more substance than their spindly cousins from the Mosel in the north, and combine the weight of a white burgundy with far more racy acidity and fond

friendly structure.

I have yet to make any significant investments in cellaring modern Australian wine, a few magnums of particularly concentrated South Australian shiraz apart, because of so many of them seem ready to drink the moment they're put on sale.

Perhaps the most striking development in recent wine production has been the speed with which Australia has imposed itself on the world's wine map. By the late 1980s it seemed as though my friends had given up European wine for good. Every dinner party was lubricated by bottles and bottles of deep golden Australian Chardonnay.



Giant wine rack under the author's stairs holds 240 bottles of wine that do not require

cellaring. Clos Ste Hune, above, is the classic example of slow-maturing Alsace white

For years the French underestimated the challenge to their supremacy, interpreting the fact that they produce indubitably the best wines in the world as proof that all their wines were superior. This arrogance has been infuriating, particularly for those of us who worship the best of France's wine culture. In the long term, I think competition from outside, especially from cheeky upstarts, will prove to be the best thing for traditional wine regions and for consumers everywhere.

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● Extracted from *Confessions of a Wine Lover*, by Jancis Robinson, to be published by Viking at £17.99 on October 13

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... but through his art Peter Brookes conveys succinct comments tinged with a strong whiff of irreverence

NATURE NOTES

Scottish U-Tern (*Electus forsgodsake*)

By flexing its backbone this bird can adopt an uncomfortable *reflexus endum* position.



NATURE NOTES

Hedgehog (*Europa dithera*)

If this sad creature persists in its middle-of-the-road position it can expect to be kohled in large numbers.



Drawing on experience

Kenneth Baker examines the new book by Times cartoonist Peter Brookes

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England and France battle for the world in Gillray's cartoon

CARTOONING is alive and well in Britain. Its demise has looked imminent twice this century—first with the advent of photography, then of television. Nowadays people have immediate access to the images of politicians, members of the Royal Family and leading sporting and pop figures. Since they can all be caught in grotesque and embarrassing grins, what can the cartoonist add? The answer to that is wit and intelligence.

A cartoon is not just another illustration, it conveys a succinct comment varying from scepticism to irreverence and contempt, and it aims to embarrass the victim with laughter. A good cartoonist will have a clear political perspective, such as David Low's consistent attacks in the Thirties on Baldwin and Chamberlain.

Today we have *The Guardian's* cartoonist, Steve Bell, who is old Labour right down to the nub of his pen, transferring his contempt for John Major to Tony Blair. The mind of the cartoonist is as important as his talent to draw.

Peter Brookes of *The Times* has one of the sharpest minds in cartooning. He found his calling rather late, having left school to become a pilot in the RAF, before becoming an illustrator.

Most cartoonists start very young. Gillray did his best work in his thirties and forties; a contemporary of his, Newton, died at the age of 21; Theodore Lane, who drew some wickedly funny cartoons of Caroline and George IV, fell to his death in his twenties through a window. George Cruikshank sat and watched his father, Isaac, etching cartoons, and started drawing himself at the age of 12. He abandoned

political cartooning by the age of 30 in favour of illustrations, going on to draw *Oliver Twist*. Brookes is happily a late bloomer.

As an illustrator, his sketches accompanied articles by Bernard Levin and Simon Jenkins. Then in 1992, he asked the editor of *The Times*, Peter Sutherland, whether he could have a go at political cartooning. Fortunately for us all, the answer was 'yes'.

Brookes's first five years were dominated by John Major's Government. On the day after the election in 1992, he drew his most flattering cartoon of the Prime Minister, standing confidently on his soap box outside No 10, while Neil Kinnock was in the soup.

In that cartoon, Brookes drew the pupils of John Major's eyes be-

hind his glasses, but he soon omitted the pupils to show that Major had no vision of where the country was going. Unkind, but cartoonists do not deal in kindness. William Hague has learned that lesson already as Brookes portrays him as the Mekon, a strange, barely human android.

CARTOONISTS thrive on big figures — Margaret Thatcher, Michael Heseltine, Ken Clarke — and, above all, on prime ministers. Brookes has therefore been coming to grips with Tony Blair. The physical side is not too difficult — the teeth, the wisp of hair and no doubt soon the wringing of the hands. But to get at the politics of the Prime Minister, Brookes has invented a comic strip character

Dan Blair, with the ironic subtitle, *Pilot for the Forseeable Future* — the dynamic, confident chap who has all the answers... or does he? This is somewhat reminiscent of Vicki's portrayal of Macmillan as Supermac in the late Fifties. It was meant to be ironic, but actually enhanced Macmillan's reputation.

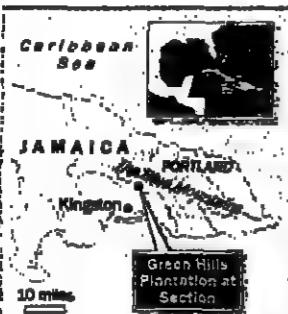
Brookes's book, *Nature Notes*, shows that he is warming to the task of pinning down the new ministers in the Government, a target-rich area with characters such as Prescott, Mandelson, Short and Dobson who, as Health Minister, can look forward to a hard winter of cartooning.

The cartoonist has to search for the unlikely and the bizarre, and one way of doing this is to couple two unrelated contemporary events. For example, when Clare Short discovered her long-lost son, Brookes depicted Tony Blair as finding his long-lost mother — Margaret Thatcher.

A good cartoonist has to delineate the character in his caricature. As Annibale Carracci, the Italian father of caricature, or *caricatura*, said in the late 16th century, cartoonists must 'grasp the perfect deformity and thus reveal the very essence of a personality'. But it has to be done with an economy of line, and Brookes successfully reduces his victims' characteristics to the bare minimum.

In *Nature Notes*, John Major's opposition to Gillian Shephard's devotion to corporal punishment has him depicted as an angular stick-insect resting on a cane. Heseltine, who had said that there was nothing wrong in keeping companies waiting for their money, is punningly drawn as a cheetah (late-payer Hezzi).

A brutal and very Jamaican death



Tunku Varadarajan mourns the shocking loss of a dear friend

On July 9, 1997, two evil men murdered Mark Twyman — my friend, my buddy, my mate — outside his cottage in Jamaica's Blue Mountains, where he grew the world's best coffee on his father's sprawling farm. We know there were two killers because Mark's body bore the wounds of two different guns.

The men shot him six times: five bullets in the back as he tried to escape, and once in the heart, the gun so close to his body that there were powder burns on his chest. The last shot was fired as he lay, barely alive, on a steep hillside. In Mark's right hand, caught in a death-grip, was a wristwatch, wrenched from one of his assailants, as his own life was being wrenched from him. It was a coarse death, a brutal death, a very Jamaican death.

The local papers, turned callous by 1,000 murders a year, mentioned his end in no more than 50 dry words. There was no mention of his wife, Mary-Anne, then eight months pregnant with their first child. Now, she is the mother of Nicholas Mark, six weeks old, who will never see his father.

I fly to Jamaica next weekend for Mark's memorial service. His ashes will be interred on a mist-wrapped slope at Green Hills by his family, accompanied by a small knot of friends from Kingston and New York, London and Oxford. We will shed quiet tears for Mark, and, I hope, toast him in coffee, the drink for which he gave his life.

I knew Mark from Oxford, where we were undergraduates together: he at Pembroke, I at Trinity; he a chemist and I a lawyer. We first met in 1981, at a 'freshers' party at the Oxford Union. We last met in December, 1993, considerably wiser, when he was on holiday in London — 'to buy books



Mark Twyman at Oxford in a 1984 photograph taken after an exam. He went on to achieve a BA in chemistry

and records, and to get a bit of culture... he then put it.

He bought a compact disc — I think it was a symphony for the organ by Charles-Marie Widor — and we listened to it in my new flat in Islington. We had just played squash, and were sweating profusely. I remember the Jamaican lilt in his voice, and the swell of the organ music.

Mark is now dead. He was killed, we believe, by his own integrity. After long years in England — a BA in chemistry at Pembroke, a doctorate, a research fellowship at Oxford, and a spell as a research scientist with Exxon in Abingdon — he returned to Jamaica in 1993, determined to

work for the country in which he was born. He would have been 35 this December.

Well people," he wrote to his friends at the time. "After years of talking about it, yours truly is actually taking that big step. Yep, I'm going to give Jamaica my best shot. Idealistic tomfoolery? Simply stupid and ill-informed? Or inspired? I don't know. But, 'im a go bəd a yəd fi true yu know.'

Mark took charge of his father's farm, the Old Tavern Estate and coffee output trebled within three years. For the first time, the farm was being run as a proper

commercial enterprise. He also pitched in with the rest, and people still talk of this little white man, with a doctorate from Oxford, pumping bags and cutting weeds with the farmworkers. He also taught at village schools and picked up his workers at the crack of dawn. To them he was always 'Mark', never 'Mr Twyman, Sir'.

Yet Mark was stubborn. Mark had integrity. He got these features from his father, Alex, who migrated to Jamaica in 1958 from Forest Gate, in east London. Alex, who came to work as a quantity surveyor, soon married Dorothy, who belonged to an old white Jamaican family. Together, a

decade later, they bought a plot in the Blue Mountains and started the farm.

A man of iron honesty, Mark rubbed the 'coffee establishment' up the wrong way. He was swiftly embittered by the openness with which coffee producers were robbed, the audacity with which stocks were plundered. It is an open secret in Jamaica that the profits from these thefts line not just the pockets of the píleros, but also of those officials who control Jamaica's coffee milieu.

Mark witnessed these thefts, which cost his farm not petty cash but thousands of dollars. He spoke out against them repeatedly. He had warned



Widowed Mary-Anne holds baby Nicholas Mark, who will never know his father

people to stop *iefing*, and taken down the numbers of licence plates.

In doing so he made enemies in high places. This, surely, was why he was murdered. And this, surely, is why the police have now called off the investigation into his murder, a mere ten weeks after his death.

There is more. For 25 years Mark's father battled the Jamaican Coffee Board's monopoly, fighting for a licence that would allow him to export his coffee independently, and free him from the law that forced him to sell all his beans to the board.

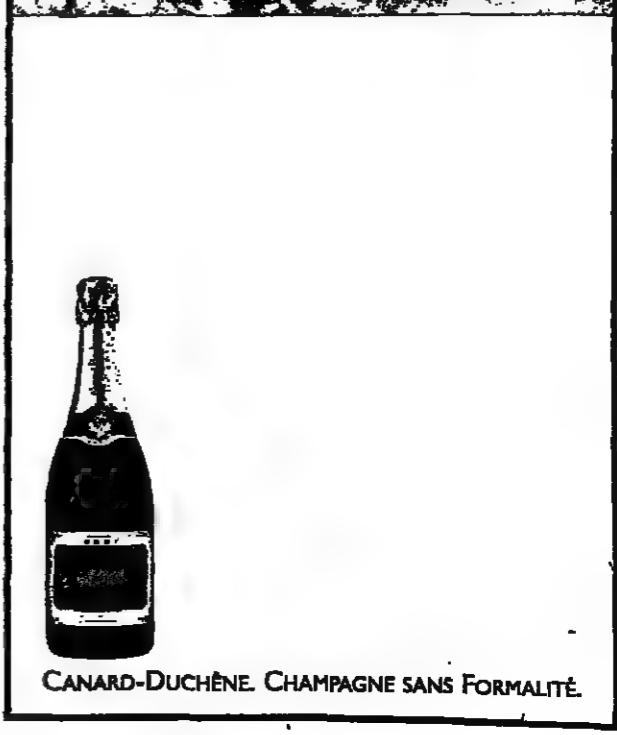
With Mark's skills, the Twymans won. On July 9, the very day of his murder, the export licence finally came through. The world, for Mark, looked brilliant that morning: a new licence for the family after a quarter-century of attrition, a devoted wife who was eight months pregnant, his Jamaican dream in full flower.

At 5.30pm that day, drained after his labours, he returned home, to the beautiful, sylvan cottage where he lived. But they were waiting for him there. Two men, one with an automatic rifle, the other with a handgun. Mark was attacked as he alighted from his Land Rover, parked on the gravel driveway. The car's door was still ajar the next morning when a search party found him, soaked in the dew of the Blue Mountains. He was dead, his fine life destroyed by a volley of calibre bullets, his body slumped against a coffee bush.

Mark Twyman — my friend, my buddy, my mate — died a coarse death, a brutal death, a very Jamaican death.

IN FRANCE,
A BOTTLE OF
CHAMPAGNE

Canard-Duchêne
IS OPENED
EVERY 10 SECONDS.



Lady Cobbold tells Mike Cable how CRA helped her to refashion Knebworth House

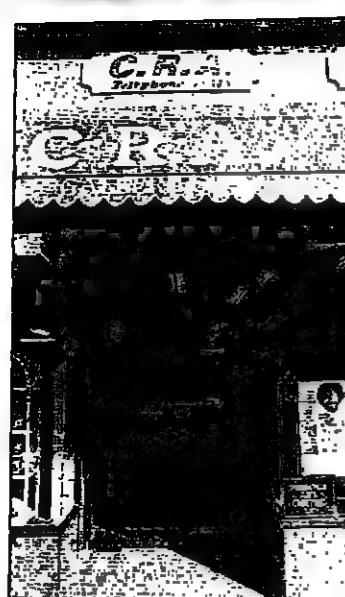
Loving revival of a rock pile

Rock 'n' roll helped to put stately home Knebworth House back on the map with the likes of Elton John, the Rolling Stones and Oasis headlining a series of massive open-air festivals staged in the 250-acre park.

Behind the scenes, however, the struggle to save the Hertfordshire estate, in the same family for more than 500 years, has not always been quite so glamorous for Lord and Lady Cobbold.

Running a stately home is a notoriously difficult business and despite the success of the concerts and other attractions that have

**my
favourite
shop**



The entrance to CRA, favoured haunt of artists in St Albans

introduced since taking over Knebworth from Lord Cobbold's parents in 1970, there have been times when they have come close to going under.

It was partly to help costs that the shy and unassuming Chrissie Lyton Cobbold — as she prefers to be known — taught herself upholstery, curtain-making and picture-framing, personally refurbishing much of the house.

Over the years she has tackled everything from the repair of delicate antique silk curtains to the complete restoration of a magnificent 18th-century four-poster bed in the bedroom once used by author Edward Bulwer-Lytton's mother. In her workshop she even set about rewiring all the table and standard lamps.

It was after she decided to re-can a set of 16 antique Regency dining chairs that she first discovered CRA, a large, two-storey shop in nearby St Albans that specialises in art and craft materials and picture framing.

"After a lot of ringing around, it was the only place I could find that sold the sort of cane fabric that I needed," she recalls. "Then, when I went in, I found that it was full of all kinds of other interesting things."



Lady Cobbold at the shop with a restored Regency dining chair. "It was the only place that sold the sort of cane fabric that I needed"

When it first opened as a small corner shop in the city 20 years ago, what was then known as the Centre for Restoration and Arts concentrated mainly on upholstery and furniture restoration.

But by time it moved to its present premises six years ago, it had started to concentrate more on the art side. "In St Albans it seems that everyone is an artist," explains Denise Davis, one of the four partners who run the family business. "There are an awful lot of art societies in the area."

An endlessly energetic mother of four grown-up children, Lady Cobbold herself likes to paint — when she can find the time.

"I'm lousy at it, but when I'm on holiday I like to have a go and I come here for all my materials," she says. "I do a lot of picture-framing at the house and they have a huge framing department here, which is useful."

"I also make a lot of cushions and this is where I get embroidery wool that I use." Her eye alights on some plain white silk ties that can be hand-painted with one's own design. "I love that idea: I think I might do one as a present for my husband," she says.

Browsing further among the packed shelves, she points out some miniature wallpapers of the kind she used to renovate an antique doll's house, dating from 1780, for the museum at Knebworth.

"I also made a doll's house for my daughter Rosina when she was little," she recalls, adding: "I just itch to make things. And working with my hands is something which has always come naturally to me."

Upholstery and the caning of chairs are skills she taught herself from books. "I never go to classes," she says. "My mind goes completely blank when someone actually tries to tell me how to do something. I suppose that's why I never did very well at school."

The daughter of Sir Dennis Studey, Chrissie was brought up at Hartland Abbey, an even bigger stately pile than Knebworth, so she was no stranger to the problems involved in keeping such places going.

"Everybody has their price, name yours."

"We mentioned a figure which seemed like a fortune to us, never thinking it would be accepted, and he said yes immediately. So that was it."

"And we never regretted it. It has been good commercially and we have never had any real trouble. On the whole, everybody has always been very well behaved."

Her latest project involves editing and reprinting the works of her husband's great-great grandfather, Edward Bulwer-Lytton, whose close friend Charles Dickens often stayed at Knebworth, where he wrote part of *David Copperfield*.

"We've put Knebworth back on the map. Now I'd like to do the same for Edward Bulwer-Lytton's writings," she says.

• CRA, 13-15 Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 3U (0127 851555). Open Mon-Fri 8.30am-5.30pm, Sat 9am-5pm.

"I'm lousy at it, but when I'm on holiday I like to have a go and I come here for all my materials," she says. "I do a lot of picture-framing at the house and they have a huge framing department here, which is useful."

"I also make a lot of cushions and this is where I get embroidery wool that I use." Her eye alights on some plain white silk ties that can be hand-painted with one's own design. "I love that idea: I think I might do one as a present for my husband," she says.

Browsing further among the packed shelves, she points out some miniature wallpapers of the kind she used to renovate an antique doll's house, dating from 1780, for the museum at Knebworth.

"I also made a doll's house for my daughter Rosina when she was little," she recalls, adding: "I just itch to make things. And working with my hands is something which has always come naturally to me."

Upholstery and the caning of chairs are skills she taught herself from books. "I never go to classes," she says. "My mind goes completely blank when someone actually tries to tell me how to do something. I suppose that's why I never did very well at school."

The daughter of Sir Dennis Studey, Chrissie was brought up at Hartland Abbey, an even bigger stately pile than Knebworth, so she was no stranger to the problems involved in keeping such places going.

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BARGAIN BASEMENT

There are bargains to be had at markets, boot sales, junk shops and stalls all over the country. Let loose on them with £100, what would you buy?

Wibbles — small wooden animals the size of a 50p coin, with heads on springs. The ubiquitous jester's hats are becoming ever more dangerous — often up to three storeys high, and festooned with a distressing number of jangling bells. At night, the sounds of drunken revellers falling into drainage ditches is punctuated by the oddly affecting sound of Santa's sleigh.

And, for those who like their clothes colourful, the jackets made of candlewick bedspreads and old curtains made the festival-site look it had been dressed by Vivienne Westwood. Otherwise, it's all dope-smoking accoutrements — hookahs in the shape of two lovers; a skull; a Coke bottle with "Folke" uncannily written on it.

I'm old school in my festival purchases: I spent most of my money on lager. You know where you are with lager.

• Los Wibbles: £2.50 each; demonic mirror that looked like Les Dennis; £12 candlewick jacket in red and yellow: £15; two skirts; gold curtain material: £14; knitted floor-length dress: £15; star-shaped lampshade: £15; rainbow-patterned aniseed flavoured cigarette papers: 50p; hookah in the shape of a pern: £20. Total: £94.00.

CAITLIN MORAN

GADGETS

It is difficult to imagine life without hi-fi speakers, but positioning them correctly is always fraught with pitfalls. Often speakers' umbilical cords are too short to place them far enough apart for true high-fidelity sound, unless you add extensions. On the floor they are wasted; on the wall, cables dangle untidily.

Life would be easier if you could place speakers wherever they sounded best. The answer is cordless speakers, and although the first are hardly top-of-the-range, future versions surely will be. They work with a transmitter, which plugs into any sound source — like the headphones of a Walkman — with a mini-jack plug. There is also a standard plug adaptor so you can use it with either the hi-fi or the television.

The stereo speakers, each powered with four AA batteries, can be placed anywhere within a 50ft radius. The freedom is sensational, allowing you to take listening pleasures to unlikely places like the loo, bedroom, attic or garden shed. It is especially good for allowing you to play music you couldn't ordinarily cart around effortlessly.

TIM WAPSHOTT

• Cordless headphones and transmitter plus two speakers package, £69.95 plus p&p, from *Hi Innovations* (0990 507000).

Wear t

BELOW: Brum Brum ceramic salt and pepper cars, £35, from Worldwide Co, (0171-372 7523). This entertaining set demands a long table, as the wheels really work, allowing guests to whizz the duo from one end to another.



Not everything in black and white's a grind

SALT AND PEPPER POTS

IF YOU are tired of the same old grind, put some zing back in on your table with the season's hottest twisters and shakers.

Maddalena Bonino at Bertorelli, one of London's leading Italian restaurants, says it is not just the containers that matter: it is the contents, too. Black peppercorn is best for grinders, she says, as the mixtures of white and brown tend to produce a result that is too powdery.

To Bonino, "nothing beats a good grinder, so that guests can adjust

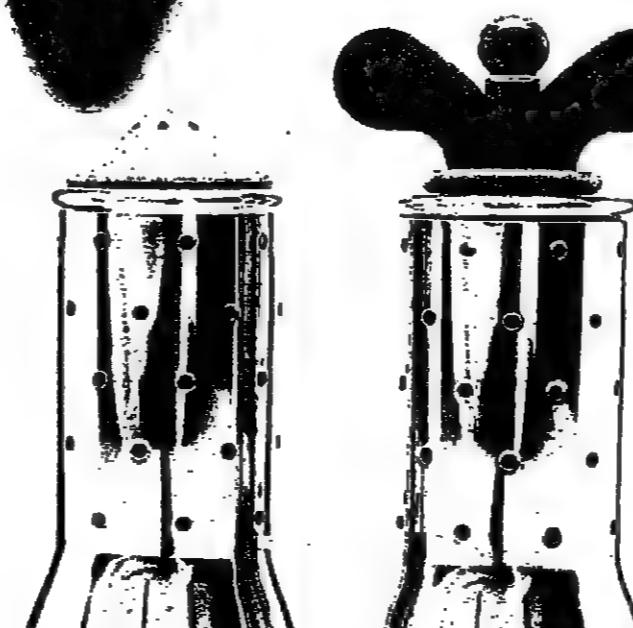
the seasoning of the food to their taste". She also suggests sea-salt crystals, as they grind better than flakes. Crystals are always available in specialist shops but most large supermarkets should stock them at half the price. When it comes to size, this is one instance, Bonino says, when it really doesn't matter: what counts is the density of the seasoning and the pleasure of the twist.

Whatever your taste, this season there are numerous pairs to suit: whether they are easy to clean and fill, fun to use or just gorgeous to look at.

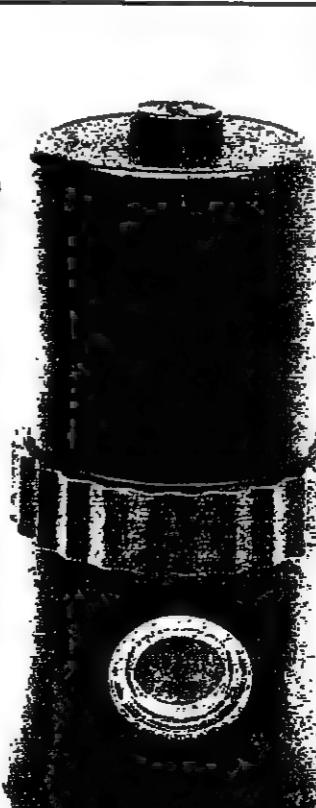
CAROLINE GRIFFITHS

RIGHT: Italian designed "Push-Up" ceramic salt and pepper shakers with stand, £35, from Worldwide Co (0171-372 7523). American-style, they fill from the top, clean in warm soapy water and make sure they are dry before filling

RIGHT: Toothpaste-tube plastic salt and pepper pots, £6.95, in green or blue, from Estilo, (0161-944 6868). Fun and practical, these shakers have a washer that stops the contents from spilling even if they are lying flat.



RIGHT: Sarah Jordan's silver "Embrace" pots, £35 (mail order, 0181-444 2331). Beautifully crafted but time-consuming to fill



ABOVE: Battery-operated pepper grinder, £3.99, from John Lewis (0171-828 1000). This magical creation not only grinds your pepper at the push of a button, but it also lights up. Ideal for the technophile with poor vision.

PHOTOGRAPHS: DES NEVISON

ABOVE: "Dune" salt and pepper shakers in pewter, £50, designed by Michael Ryan (mail order, 01427 677556). Full marks for elegance but difficult to grip and easily smudged



RIGHT: Pollicino ceramic salt and pepper shakers, £16.25, from Worldwide, (as above). Available in blue and ochre, with a handle for good grip. Not easy to fill; try up-ending the shaker into a tea towel to cover the holes, preventing any spillage



The latest wide-legged styles are the answer to every woman's trouser dilemma, Heath Brown writes



MAIN PICTURE: Metro cowneck sweater, £35, Jigsaw branches nationwide (0171-491 4484). Grey flannel trousers, £59, Kokko, branches nationwide (0171-937 4411). Cowboy boots, £295, Gina for Ghost, 189 Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-235 2932).

ABOVE: Blue stretch shirt, £19.99, River Island, branches nationwide (0181-968 8822). Cashmere sweater, £220, Jill Sander; grey check trousers, £310, Sonia Rykiel, both Browns, 25-26 South Molton Street, London W1, and 8 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-491 7833). Clutch bag, £135, Russell & Bromley, 24-25 New Bond Street, London W1, and branches nationwide (0171-629 6903). Cowboy boots, Gina for Ghost, as before.

LEFT: Grey knit T-shirt, £240, Jill Sander, Browns, as before. Side-split trousers, £190, Valencia (0171-833 1410). Boots, Gina for Ghost, as before.

Photographs by Richard Burns. Hair and make-up by Sally Kvalheim. Styling by Amandip Uppal

Wear them far and wide

To many women, the idea of wearing trousers is out of the question: worries about the size of their thighs or their bottom take over. They should stop fretting: the new wide-leg trouser styles are perfect for hiding every imperfection: loose flowing, but tailored for a flattering fit, they can look fabulously elegant and will add another dimension to every wardrobe, giving women ever more combinations to choose from.

For the look, think back to the simple sophistication of Katharine Hepburn in her heyday, when softly tailored wool pants were worn with crisp white blouses or plush cashmere sweaters. It is a

refined lounge style that became popular in the late Forties, when women — who had only worn trousers in factories and offices while the men were off to war — started wearing pants to every occasion in peacetime, breaking all previous conventions about society parties. Although trousers were considered to be very masculine at the time, this new style moulded them to make them womanly, with soft folds and feminine flairs to flatter curves and emphasise waspish waists.

Today, as then, the style is particularly flattering if you get the proportions right: a wider trouser leg takes the emphasis away from the hips and gives limbs a longer

shape. The long, elegant look is made to look even leaner and slimmer when worn with slim heels; the effect of a slender ankle offers the illusion of a long, thin leg beneath the flowing folds. Boots with heels are ideal to achieve this look or sharp, spindly sandals from stores such as Bertie, which has the perfect stiletto boot in black suede or leather for £75 (0171-935 2002), or Gina, which has wonderfully spiky stilettos.

If you are a woman who wears the pants, now is the time to step out in style. Forget slimline cigarette pants, boot-cut styles, naff Seventies flares and stretch jeans. When it comes to strutting out in trousers, the wider the leg-width and the more flowing the fabric, the better.

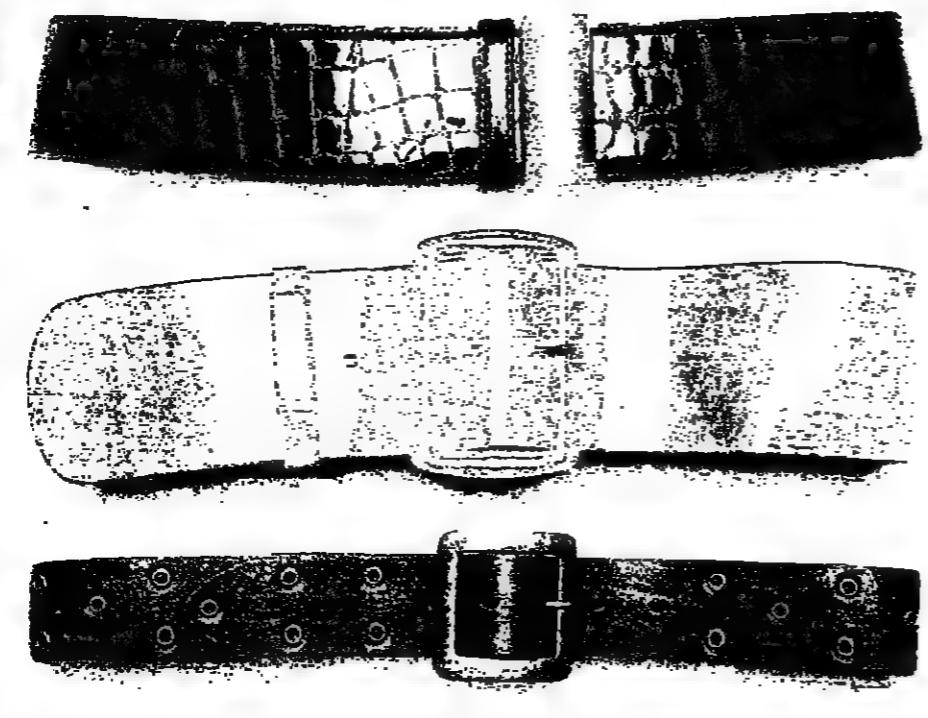
Wear tight-fitting knits and small, shaped jackets, which make the legs look longer and the waistline narrower, to extend this look throughout the body. A



Double-breasted suit: trousers, £310, jacket, £615, Sonia Rykiel; black sweater, Browns, as before. Tan classic brogues, £175, Jones, 112 Jermyn Street, London SW1 (telephone 0800 163519).

THREE OF A KIND

It is not just trousers that are going wider. A broad belt will diminish the circumference of your waist and help to keep you upright and elegant. HB



TOP: Black patent mock-croc wide hipster belt, £78, Sally Gissing (0171-267 9303).

MIDDLE: Red patent wide belt, £45, Otto Glanz, from most major department stores nationwide (0181-365 1711).

BOTTOM: Black soft leather hole-punched wide belt, £79, Mulberry, 41-42 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-491 3900).

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GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON

replies to readers' letters

Q Mr B. Davis of Lam-peter and Mrs D. Hayes of Bedford both write to ask how to deal with a forest of suckers coming up from the roots of sumach trees (or possibly tree of heaven — *Ailanthus*) blown down earlier in the year. Their concerns are how to kill the suckers without damaging lawns, and whether the suckers are poisonous to animals.

A As Mr Davis points out, sumach can live for years with barely a sucker. But if one blows down, as opposed to dying of old age or disease, then a forest of suckers will appear. All that energy has to go somewhere. If a live sumach blows over and you do not want suckers, then it pays to kill the stump with RootOut.

The garden species of sumach, *Rhus typhina* and *glabra*, should not be confused with poison sumach, *Toxicodendron vernix*. The latter is seriously poisonous, but the garden sumachs will only cause digestive disturbances in humans if eaten raw. I assume stock are even less susceptible.

Q I have a well-established *Hydrangea petiolaris* clinging to the stucco on my house. I have been told that this plant, and ivy, can penetrate the stucco. When I took ivy off stucco previously, it left marks which I could not remove. Should I remove

the hydrangea and plant something else on this west wall? Could I turn it blue? — Mrs M. Bishop, Newton Abbot, Devon.

A First, no, you cannot turn the flowers of *Hydrangea petiolaris* like the shrubby hortensias. If only you could. Imagine a vigorous climber with large blue flowers, for shade. Second, yes, the marks — the remains of the hydrangea's aerial roots — linger for many years, especially on rough stucco or pebble-dashing. Repainting the wall is the best disguise.

A council of architectural perfection would be to remove the hydrangea, and indeed, if the stucco is at all in poor condition, then the hydrangea will open up the cracks and let water in to freeze and burst the stucco. On the other hand, if the stucco is sound, why not enjoy the hydrangea for a few years? The canopy of the plants will offer some frost protection to the stucco. The most efficient self-clinging climber, without aerial roots but with less invasive suckers, is the small-leaved creeper *Parthenocissus tricuspidata 'Veitchii'*.

Q Readers should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9ZN. We regret that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that any enclosures cannot be returned.



Sir Peter plays Caliban to Lady Parker's Prospero. "Caliban does all the wheelbarrowing," he says

Twin pools mirror their makers

ME AND MY GARDEN: SIR PETER PARKER

Jane Owen

visits an estate where minds are entwined

We have Sir Peter Parker to thank, in part, for the Japanese garden in Holland Park, west London, and for the fact that so many of our remaining railway stations are floriferous. And that in turn is thanks to Lady Parker, who tamed her seascapes-loving husband and trained him in the beauty of the garden.

Soon after he took over as chairman of British Rail, Sir Peter brought hanging baskets to his local station, Charlbury in Oxfordshire. "I was a pale, city child," he says. The first garden of his childhood, in Hull, was "very tiny and completely unforgettable. The seaside was my playground". A leading industrialist (currently the chairman of Mitsubishi Electric) and still an active member of the Establishment, Sir Peter has a remarkably other-worldly air.

For him, garden influences

were sown young even if they took time to germinate. During his childhood in Shanghai (his parents moved there from Dunkirk in 1931) the Buddhist monks of a nearby temple let him and his gang play in the temple gardens.

"Far too boisterously, I think. But I remember how sculptural the gardens were." His fascination with Japan brought him the chair of the Japan in 1991

and that in turn brought London the Japanese garden.

In London the Parkers are

masters of a minute Japanese-style garden in Oxfordshire they



Lady Parker's pond, romantic and uneven, attracts ducks

reminder of the garden's past. Sir Peter's next project is to have a ghost village of ironwork structures made, gazebo-like, over this newly annexed area, which was a village as recently as the last century.

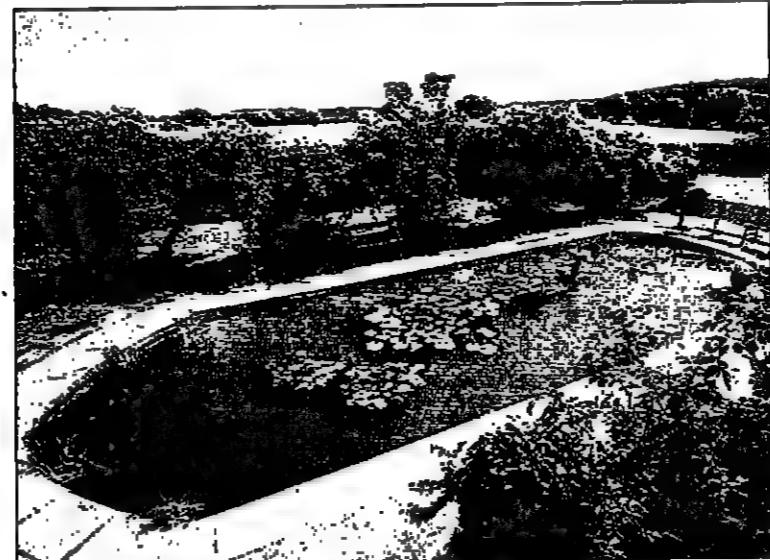
"This is my mockery," he says of a small rockery-like area by the house, where alpines grow alongside a couple of heathers that have been "smuggled in", as Lady Parker puts it, brownly.

The two Parker styles are at their most obvious in the water garden. Her pool is romantic and uneven with a self-seeded rose arching over one edge and a pair of picturesque ducks which choose her pond, not his, to come and mate in. His pool is formal and symmetrical, studded with white water lilies and rippling with koi carp. A fountain plays at one end and two tiers of incredibly well-disciplined *Alchemilla mollis* cascade along one side.

The garden floats above layer upon layer of history: a Roman road, probably more Roman remains in the form of a large villa. Saxon remains and then, not far beneath most of the garden, a pattern of stone and cobble floor which once traced out possibly the biggest private house in 15th-century Britain, Minster Lovell. The romantic ruins of which can be seen from most points in the garden.

"Jill delegates sitting in the garden to me. I'm good at that," says Sir Peter.

"I never get a chance," says Lady Parker.



Sir Peter's pond reflects his more formal approach to garden design: geometric, with a fountain at one end, water lilies on the surface and koi carp below

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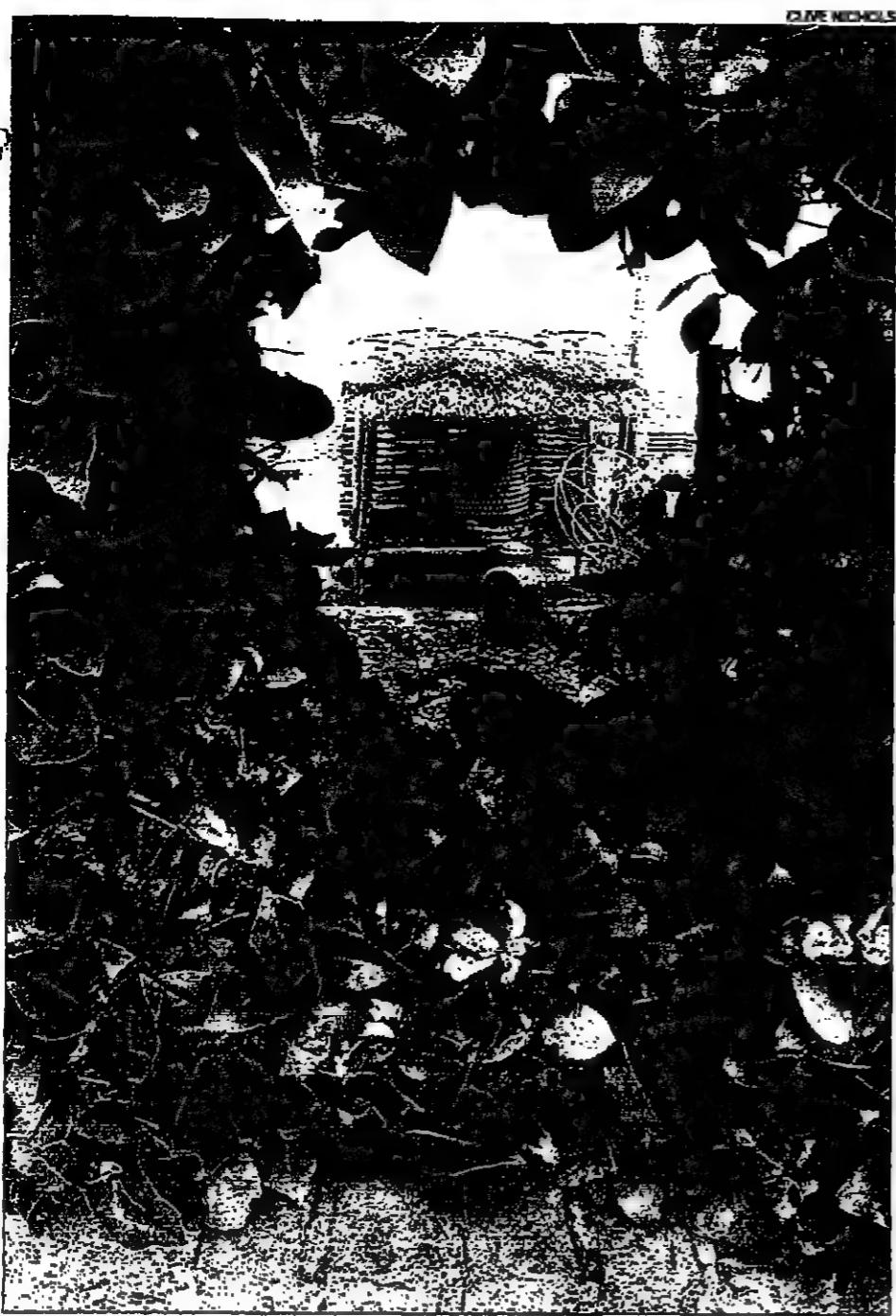
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THE M



A peep hole cut in the middle of a bay hedge offers a different view in a small garden

■ Earth up celery and leeks to blanch them, and winter brassicas for stability. Keep celery well watered, as the tenderest celery is always the fastest grown.

■ Early pears will be ready to pick now. Watch all varieties and pick as and when ready.

■ Keep ponds free of the worst leaf fall from trees. See that alpines and cushion plants are not smothered by fallen leaves, and watch for slugs taking advantage of their cover to eat into stems and crowns.



■ Aerate compacted lawns by machine, or with a fork in smaller areas. Complete any necessary turf repairs while the ground is still warm and the grass is growing. Vertical dips in lawn edges can produce an edge which looks as though it is waving in and out. To

give a straighter effect, make parallel spade cuts at right angles to the edge and peel back the turf with a spade in strips. Insert fresh soil below and roll back the turf to lie at a constant level. The edge can then be recut. Humps in the grass can be taken out in a similar way by removing soil below the turf.

■ Fallen leaves should not be allowed to lie for long on the lawn, especially if it is newly-seeded grass, or fungal infections can cause patches to die out. In dry weather,

however, a light scattering of leaves does no harm at all.

■ Finish dividing herbaceous plants now and complete any of the remainder in the spring. An exception to this rule are the acanthums (monksheads) which sometimes come into leaf before Christmas and will then need dividing early, even though they flower late. *Aconitum carmichaelii* can be in full flower, like a royal blue delphinium, in October. Divide it as soon as flowering is over.

Woodman spare that tree

Instead of clearing out your new garden you could join up the dots, says Stephen Anderton

When you move into a new garden it is all to easy to want to remove randomly placed trees and shrubs, to make some open space and give the garden a breath. And it is all too easy to regret it later. Sometimes they can be extremely useful.

One of the recognised ways of making a small garden feel larger is to break it up into even smaller units, to make a sequence of corners and arbours full of surprises and with different characters.

Sometimes those lonely shrubs or unnecessary trees cast out on a sea of lawn can be linked together to make the bones of new internal divisions in the garden. Think about it before you chop.

Try making a sketch of the garden and seeing how the shrubs or trees might be linked together. Think of it as a giant join-up-the-dots game, where you must make as many alternative shapes as possible. Usually something appealing will emerge.

You might, for instance, want to make a secret corridor down one side of the garden for growing vegetables. One small tree out in the lawn might mark the corner of this, its canopy hiding the length of the corridor from the house. You could separate the corridor from the rest of the garden with a long line of runner beans, back to back with a row of some tall herbaceous plant, Rudbeckia 'Herbstsonne'

makes a full-leaved column 6ft-7ft, with lemon-yellow flowers in late summer. It grows like a rocket, both upwards and at the root, so if you bought, say, four plants you could divide them into 20 the next autumn and have a complete screen of plants by the following year.

You could join up the dots with trellis fixed to posts instead, covering it with honeysuckle, clematis and sweet peas. For an evergreen screen you could run the trellis through with a large-leaved ivy, like *Hedera colchica* or its cheerful yellow-variegated variant 'Sulphur Heart'. It always warms the heart, even on a cold winter's day.

If there is a lonely young tree out on the lawn, why not give it a partner and make an entrance of it, pillars leading to a grass path flanked by a pair of new parallel borders? Don't worry that the trees are not the official distance apart. They will not be large open-crowned specimens in a small garden anyway, and it is better to think of trees as temporary architecture.

Use them for instant height and prune them hard to keep them to scale. They need not be there for ever. This is the beauty of a garden broken into many little units — the odd tree can come and go and never be noticed when it goes because you are not making an overall picture but a series of intimate spaces.

You may have a deep shrubbery which you want to scrap in favour of space for more detailed planting. A hellebore garden, or somewhere to grow lots of special primroses and dogtooth violets.



Have fun with a vegetable bed of runner beans, cabbage, fennel, kale and courgettes

is that anything above eye-height will give you privacy from what lies on the other side. It is an idea you can play with, by cutting a peep hole in a hedge, or making a mini-vista to be seen through the side of a rose-smothered arbour with a table and seats, from a winding path which runs behind it; or a Shakespearean "chink" in a wall like a garden confessional.

You may like the idea of dividing the garden into intimate spaces, but may think the existing trees are too many and too big. Some species you can reduce ruthlessly just by pruning, and you need not lose that height altogether. More to the point, you can then keep the old trunks, which always add dignity and a sense of passing time to a garden.

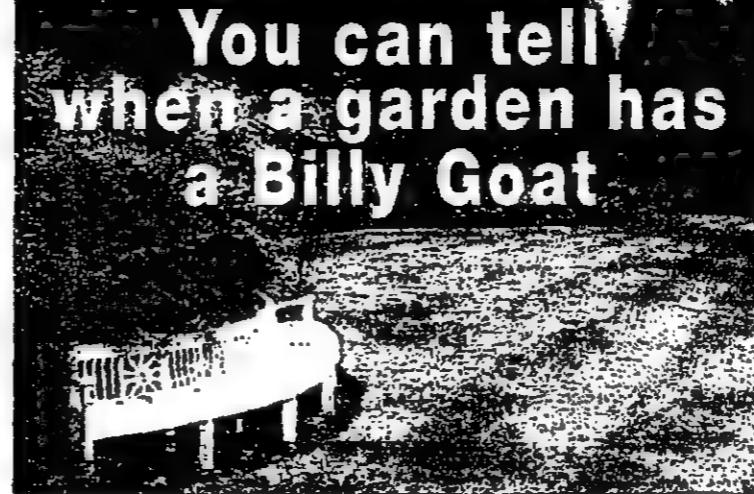


Tall: Rudbeckia 'Herbstsonne'

to make a manageable tree, or turned into topiary if you prefer. Holly and yew can be cut off at ground level and will quickly make manageable bushes again. Saving them alive and making use of existing trees can be the fastest and easiest way to a full and compartmented garden.

HOMES & GARDENS

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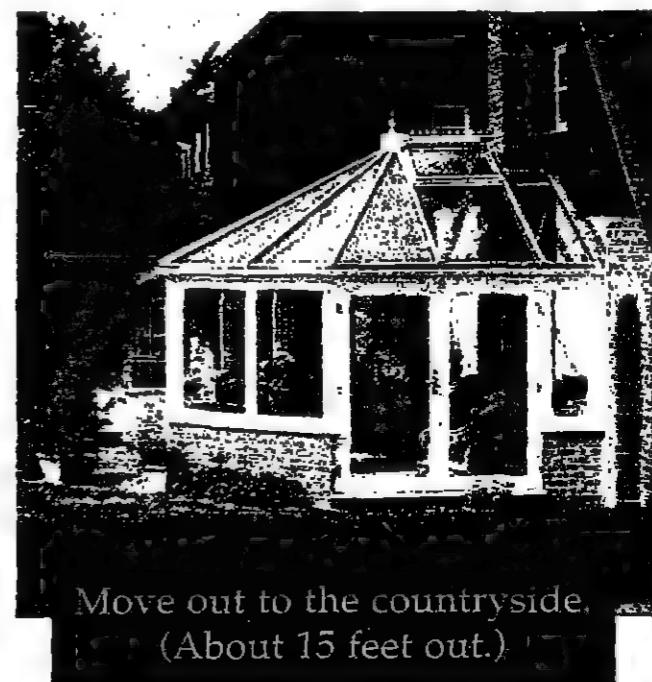


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Devolution puts owners in real estate

Prime Scottish property could be blighted by tough parliamentary tax-raising, says Tom Rowland

Michael Mackintosh and his wife Sheila bought their pretty country house near Auchterarder in Perthshire ten years ago. Now it is for sale, and Mr Mackintosh says that he will be glad when he is shot of it.

Owning even moderately expensive houses in rural Scotland could become markedly more costly in the aftermath of the devolution vote. "I voted in favour of a Scottish parliament but against giving it tax-raising powers," he says.

Now he is concerned at the prospect of an Edinburgh-based parliament introducing a swinging property tax that could both destabilise the market and frighten away outside investors.

The couple are fortunate; he is an executive in the water industry and is moving to a new address in Scotland for professional reasons, but he is also brave because he is prepared to voice openly fears that many vendors of far more extensive holdings will only mutter privately.

What will happen if extremist politicians take power in Edinburgh and attempt to fund policies through a heavy property tax? What will be the effect on sporting estates of the new Scottish parliament's influence on the right to roam and have access to land?

John Brown, director of the agent DTZ Debenham Thorpe, who is selling the house at an asking price of £245,000, is forthright: "Never before has a country decided it wants to pay more tax," he says.

Not recently, anyhow. But tax rises tend to look more appealing to electorates when somebody else is in line to pay, and in Scotland, where land-holding in many areas is still concentrated in a few hands and there is a wide perception of many absentee foreigners being involved, rural land and grand houses look a soft target.

Houses like the one the Mackintoshes are selling could get caught in the crossfire. They pay council tax of about £1,300 a year. In much of Scotland the figures are already higher than for comparable places in England, and if the



Michael and Sheila Mackintosh outside the country house near Auchterarder in Perthshire that they are glad to sell, fearing the advent of swinging property taxes

Exchequer grants are reduced these figures will be set for hikes even before any new tax is levied.

"Many Scottish politicians do not like the way we currently manage the big sporting estates and would like to see them split up and farmed intensively," said Guy Galbraith, of agents Savills in Edinburgh.

Proposed new legislation guaranteeing the public a right of access will also have a dramatic impact on big estates, he argues: "At the moment there is an understanding between landowners and ramblers, and the law of trespass is rarely exercised. A right to roam will alter the balance," he said.

Savills has already had a potential buyer questioning the wisdom of proceeding with a major purchase because of worries over devolution. Land ownership remains a politically contentious issue in Scotland. The ease with which passions are aroused is well illustrated by the phenomenal support and media attention given to the campaign by the 63 residents on

Egg to raise £1.5 million to buy their island earlier this year.

As Lord-Lieutenant of Rossburgh and chairman of the Lord-Lieutenants Association, the Duke of Buccleuch refrains from political comment. However, he is Scotland's largest private landowner with an estate of 261,600 acres in the lowlands between Edinburgh and Dumfries. Drumlanrig, one of the five estates, is set in the valley of the river Nith and is the biggest single block of state land owned in the UK.

"What I suppose people are concerned about is that the Scottish parliament will have powers over land use and access," says Mark Gibson of Brodies, an Edinburgh-based solicitor currently selling the 40,000-acre Glenfeshie estate in Highland.

The Atholl estate around Blair Atholl comes complete with a whitewashed, turreted castle and covers 148,000 acres. It is owned by

the Duke of Atholl, Sarah Troughton and the Blair Trust. The Earl of Seafield and his son Viscount Reighaven have 101,000 acres stretching from the centre of Aviemore through Grantown-on-Spey. The Duke of Westminster

owns 95,000 acres in Scotland, much in Sutherland. Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel is not far behind with 76,000 acres. He is the 26th Lochiel to own the vast lands of moor and mountain west of Loch Lochy and the Great Glen. The compact, square castle of Achnacarry stands close to the fast-running river Arkla.

All of these properties are likely to be affected by a Scottish parliament. "Some people are worried that they might re-introduce a sporting tax whereby owners pay so much per stag shot, or salmon caught and so on," says Mr Galbraith.

Foreign owners may also be disenchanted by the latest political developments.

Overseas, mainly Dutch buyers came over with a rash of land speculation in the 1970s. In the past few years, the Danes have moved in heavily, investing alongside Scottish companies.

Greentop Lands and Estates, the

Scottish-registered branch of a Liechtenstein company, is a good example of the trend. According to Andy Wightman, a new edition of whose book *Who Owns Scotland* was published this year, it owns 12 properties in Scotland amounting to around 30,000 acres and ranging from the 9,650-acre Claonaig estate in Argyll to farms of just a few hundred acres.

A usian Crumb, in his book *Who Owns Scotland Now?*, articulates the growing groundswell of opinion in Scotland that the land-ownership system will have to be reformed if local communities are to benefit from the land around them and if the vast, desolate, loss-making estates are to achieve their environmental, biological and economic potential.

Whether such reforms will take the shape of tax increases, as Mr and Mrs Mackintosh fear, or new rules and regulations, will depend on the new Edinburgh parliament. Either way the future of Scotland's vast estates is uncertain.

Anyone for a happy landing?



Landing rights only

FIRST it was the broom cupboard, now it is the landing. Two tiny flats, each squeezed on to one of the landings of a staircase in a London house, have been put up for sale at asking prices of £62,000 each for a 56-year lease.

The amount of space on offer is almost identical to the pokey Bayswater broom cupboard sold last week for £42,500, but this is an even crazier option because, camped on a landing, you must endure the constant noise of people tramping past.

The pair are in a period house in Thurloe Square in London's South Kensington and the new owners will get a single room, 10ft 5in by 8ft 6in, with a cupboard-kitchenette levered into one side.

TOM ROWLAND

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The kitchen resides behind cupboard doors

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Exposed beams, lots of space and plenty of history make medieval hall houses desirable places to live. Chris Webb reports

The fate of a grand manor house in Harrow rests on the outcome of a £2 million Heritage Lottery Fund bid, due to be announced this month.

Headstone Manor, now owned by the London Borough of Harrow, was first recorded in 1300, and in 1344 it was granted to John Stratford, Archbishop of Canterbury, who built a grand medieval hall house. Precisely how grand has only just been discovered by English Heritage, which recently carried out some digs which showed that the hall had four bays rather than the two bays previously known.

The house has been added to and subtracted from over the centuries, and a grant will enable the local authority, Harrow Heritage Trust, and Harrow Arts Council, the joint applicants, to organise an authentic restoration.

They hope the work will be finished for the millennium, when it will become a heritage centre, set in restored topiary and herb garden surrounded by a water-filled moat.

Thousands of hall houses more than 500 years old survive throughout the country, not as museums but as homes. Most are half-timbered, and they are rivalling the Georgian rectory in popularity with house buyers, according to Richard Page of John D. Wood. The company has just sold Crown House at Cowden, Kent, a late medieval hall house with Jacobean and Queen Anne additions. The £400,000 house has exposed timbers, including a decorated 15th-century crown post in the roof.

Mr Page says: "These houses are always in demand. They are often Grade II-listed, are in good locations, and their history makes them of immediate interest. They often divide into four bedrooms and three bathrooms to make comfortable homes."

Another example being marketed by the company is Pound Farm at Blackham, Kent, a £395,000 four-bedroom hall house with a drawing room, dining room and study downstairs. Like Headstone, the house, which has 20 acres of land, was altered over the years so that it now has a gabled porch and tie hung, with a brick elevation.

Mr Page says: "Hall houses are a particular feature of Kent, Sussex and Surrey and usually jettied out at first-floor level. I was told the weight of the roof bears down on the joists that support the jetties, and that heavy oak furniture counterbalanced this weight. You now see modern versions which can't match the real thing."

From Anglo-Saxon times to the



Ian Hurley outside the hall house in Cowden, Kent, which he converted from a pub into a family home. Right, the medieval crown post that supports the roof

ACTOR Ian Hurley has just sold his wonderful medieval hall house in Cowden, Kent — and has bought another one across the road.

John D. Wood has just sold the £400,000 house, which Hurley converted from a pub into a home for his wife, Teresa, a solicitor, and three young children.

Hurley bought the house four years ago and says the best thing about the eight-bedroomed house, which is thought to date from 1480, with Queen Anne and Jacobean additions, is its historic atmosphere, and

now he is hooked on it. "Restoration has become an interest," he says. "It's very satisfying. We found a crown post in the roof, which is octagonal and decorated. This may have been a manor house for a while — it had a Jacobean hallway with moulded tie beams. It would have been quite prestigious."

"We did a major restoration here. We stripped back the walls, cleaned the rafters and plastered using sand and lime plastering, and we exposed a Jacobean

HOOKED ON HISTORY

fitter here who searched our skip! I love the winters in these houses when you can light the big fire in the inglenook and burn logs with different smells — apple, oak and ash.

"The wattle and daub that fills in between the oak frame is not good insulation, but central heating can make the house cosy, and anyway we feel the cold is quite healthy.

The five-bedroomed house he has bought is smaller, with no extensions, and will also

ceiling. Almost as soon as we moved in here, we had a conservation officer who searched our skip! I love the winters in these houses when you can light the big fire in the inglenook and burn logs with different smells — apple, oak and ash.

"The wattle and daub that fills in between the oak frame is not good insulation, but central heating can make the house cosy, and anyway we feel the cold is quite healthy.

The five-bedroomed house he has bought is smaller, with no extensions, and will also

need complete refurbishment. "It's an aesthetic thing that I enjoy," says Hurley.

"It's lovely to uncover an inglenook fireplace and perhaps an iron fireback behind an ugly Fifties fireplace.

"You can sit there and work out why a door is there, and that the ceilings are low because the first floor was added to the existing open hall."

"I believe the people who built these houses were very colourful, and I like to imagine how they used to live communally in the open hall."

though it has been modernised and now offers four bedrooms with their own bathrooms, a staff flat and a granny annexe. There are 246 acres, two moats and an indoor swimming pool. There are also stables, two cottages and a tithe barn. Knight Frank is offering the property at a guide price of £1.25 million.

Cross Farm, Kidmore End, near Reading, is a Grade II-listed, double-ended hall house dating from the later 15th century. It has a great hall with a queen post roof, and even a priest hole, but has been adapted to provide seven bedrooms and four bathrooms. It has just sold with Savills at £950,000.

The house has wooden mullion windows, a heated pool, a billiard room, music room, and a wine store, as well as five reception rooms, six bedrooms, outbuildings and three acres of gardens.

Humberstone sold the Grade II-listed Downstreet Farmhouse, at Piddington, Sussex, the first day it went on the market. A potted history of the house has been written by a local historian.

The house, which had a guide price of £550,000, dates from 1295, when it was on the medieval route from Lewes to London. It was timber-framed then but was later faced with brick.

Now the company is marketing a splendid hall house just a stone's throw away, on the same road. Little Shortbridge dates from around 1500, but has been restored by the present owners to provide a luxurious four-five-bedroom home in 14 acres that include tennis courts, a billiard room, garaging and a vegetable garden and has a guide price of £650,000.

Stephen Richards, of Sevenoaks, Kent, a building surveyor who specialises in conservation, says most of the hall houses he has surveyed date from the 14th century.

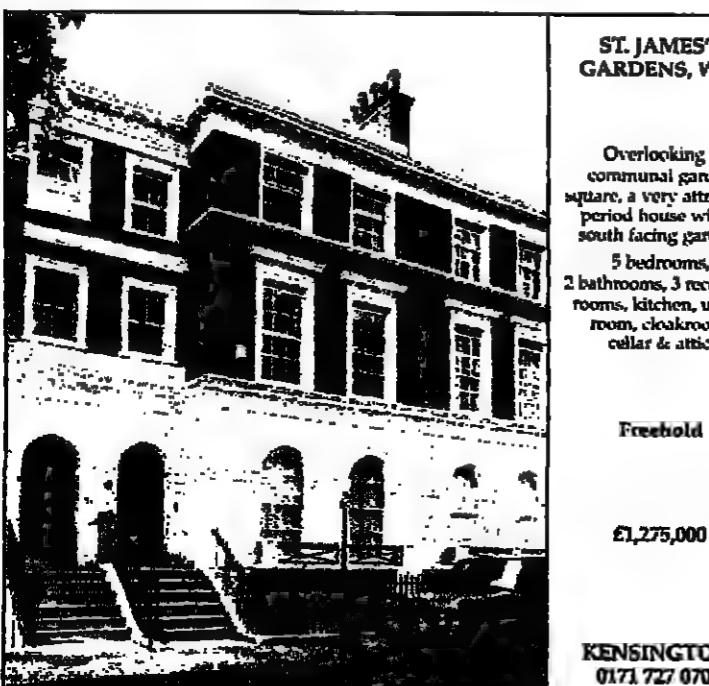
"Hall houses pre-dated putting floors right across the building partly because smoke had to go somewhere, and one of the things I look for in a survey is smoke blackening of the roof timbers.

"Maintaining these houses is very important. It's best to do a little often, replacing loose roof tiles, clearing gutters, and keeping ivy out. Central heating, if used for anything more than background heating, can damage the timbers, but there are usually plenty of fireplaces with which to heat rooms."

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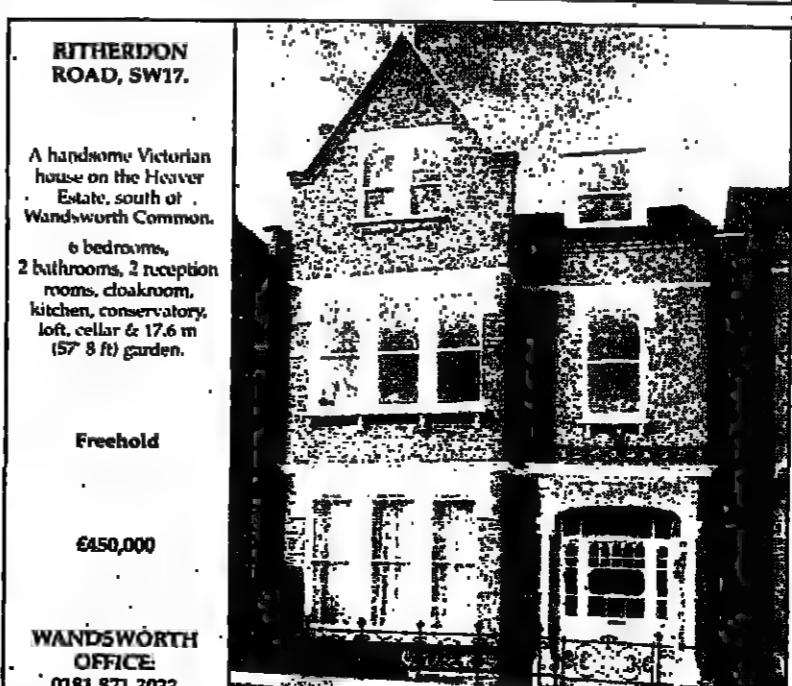
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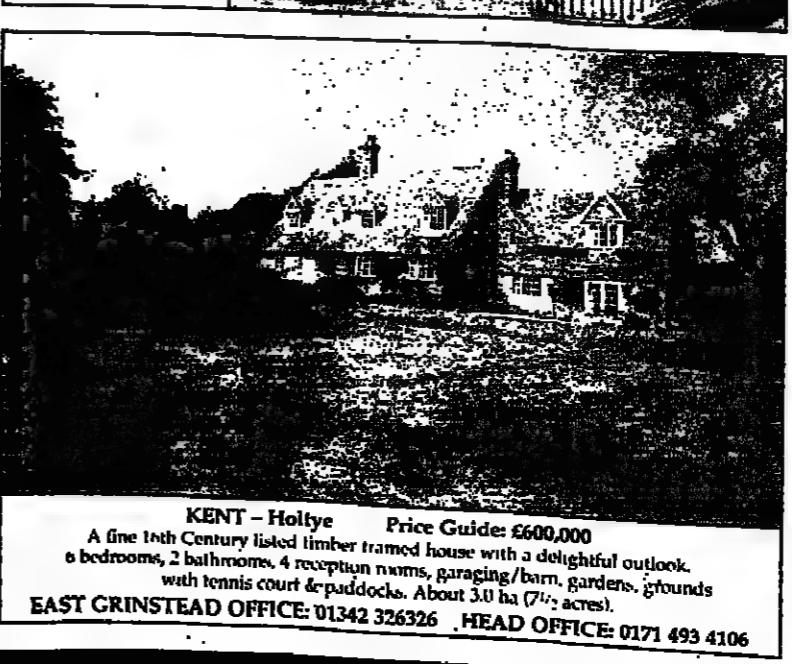
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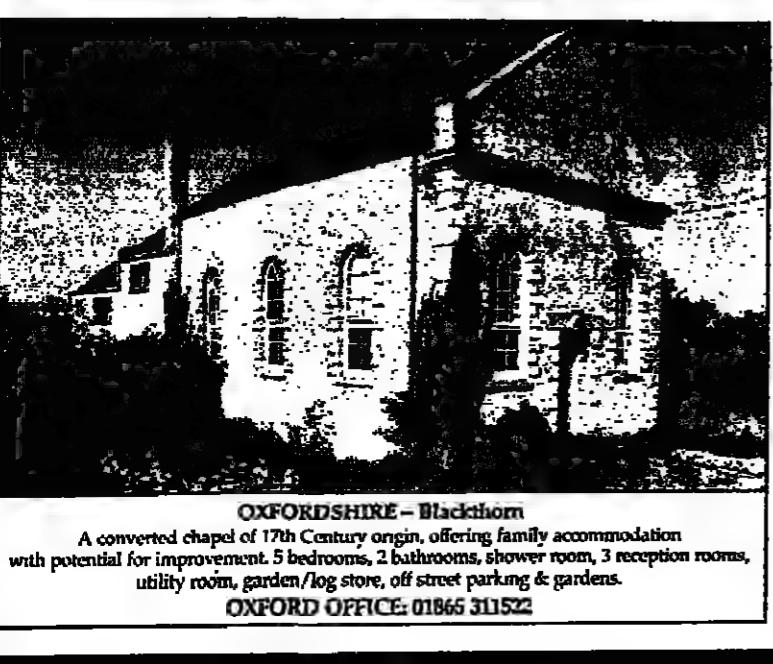
HAMPSHIRE — Nr. Lymington Price Guide: £625,000
A well presented house surrounded by attractive gardens with grazing land adjacent. 4/5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, utility room, garaging, conservatory, outbuildings, gardens & paddocks. About 3.0 ha (7.5 acres)
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RITCHERDON ROAD, SW17
A handsome Victorian house on the Hove Estate, south of Wandsworth Common.
6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, cloakroom, kitchen, conservatory, loft, cellar & 17.6 m (57' 8 ft) garden.
Freehold
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WANDSWORTH OFFICE: 0181 871 3033



KENT — Holme Price Guide: £600,000
A fine 16th Century listed timber framed house with a delightful outlook. 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms, garaging/barn, gardens, grounds with tennis court & paddocks. About 3.0 ha (7.5 acres)
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OXFORDSHIRE — Blackthorn
A converted chapel of 17th Century origin, offering family accommodation with potential for improvement. 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room, 3 reception rooms, utility room, garden/ log store, off street parking & gardens.
OXFORD OFFICE: 01865 311522



Gwynedd — Ffestiniog Price Guide: £100,000
A delightful 3 bedroom stone cottage overlooking Snowdonia National Park with about 33.9 ha (83 acres) of pasture land and mountain (let on an agricultural tenancy)
Joint Sole Agent: Bacons Son & Watson 01691 62534
OXFORD OFFICE: 01865 311522



The ultimate status symbol



Rich men at play: Robert Maxwell with Forbes

Looking for a place in the sun? For \$10 million, Malcolm Forbes's island could be all yours, writes Alex O'Connell

You don't have to wear a "Trusky" donkey jacket or sleep under *Dus Kapital* under your pillow to feel uncomfortable when a man buys an island for his own private fancy, complete with indigenous population. Sudly, the late Malcolm Forbes, staunch Republican, chairman and editor-in-chief of *Forbes*, the respected US business magazine, didn't suffer from such po-faced liberalism.

When Forbes bought the 3,000-acre Fijian island of Laucala in 1972, he was looking for a unique party venue, rather than just another family retreat. Loved and loathed for his Gatsbyesque generosity, unusual hobbies (he nearly killed himself ballooning over the Atlantic) and crude status symbols, he once spent millions on a party in Tangiers.

At the time of purchase, he already had a ranch in Colorado, an estate in New Jersey, a Wren-designed house in London, a château in France (with a balloon museum) and a palace in Morocco (home to the world's largest collection of toy soldiers). But Forbes was interested in acquiring a kingdom that had what he called the "idyllic factor", and trawled the islands of the South Pacific for more than three years in order to find the virgin beaches and green seas of Eighties Martini ads.

Forbes, reputedly bi-sexual with an obsessive motorbike fetish he owned more than 70 and gave his friend Elizabeth Taylor one called *Purple Passion*, died in 1990. This week his self-sufficient tropical paradise is going on the market for \$10 million (£6.35 million).

Because Laucala is situated only 190 miles from Nadi, site of Fiji's international airport and 135 miles from Suva, the capital, those who grow weary of the sunshine and warm waters can fly back to rejoin the outside world with minimum fuss.

Although there are more than 844 islands and islets in the archipelago (only 100 are inhabited), Laucala is special because it has running water, electricity and a huge potential for tourism.

The island was appealing enough for William Bligh, the hapless captain of the *Bounty*, to stop and take note of its precise location, although he never made it on to the beach.

The scenery is everything you would expect of the hyperbolic world that travel brochures love to call Paradise. There are stunning coral reefs,



shell-coated beaches and enough coconuts to make a lifetime's supply of Bounty bars.

The mountainous interior is rugged and beautiful with rainforests, exotic birds, top-heavy mango trees and the sort of giant ferns usually restricted to the pages of dinosaur books.

Forbes's home is situated at the highest point. Squinting down on his kingdom, he could keep his chest of gold under surveillance and pre-empt attacks by modern-day pirates. The house itself is not extravagant, although a little self-consciously simple.

There is a living room, terrace, kitchen, two bedrooms, two bathrooms and a swimming pool at the front. Seven holiday homes with woven walls and cathedral thatched roofs (known locally as *bures*) nestle under the palms and look out to sea. Perfect accommodation for noisy guests.

The Plantation House sits on the edge of the hill. Built in 1926, it is a wood-framed building with a wide veranda,



high ceilings and rattan furniture. Forbes, known to both friends and employees as The Boss, held extravagant dinners there for visiting dignitaries. The island janitor will shake up in the Manager's

house, which has two bedrooms, a veranda and sea views.

According to the brochure, they are "friendly people", known for their enthusiastic greeting of "Bula". It further reassures the nervous potential buyer: "The islands are free of malaria... [there are] no dangerous land animals or crocodiles... Enjoy nature without risk."

Agents: Knight Frank: 071-629 5171

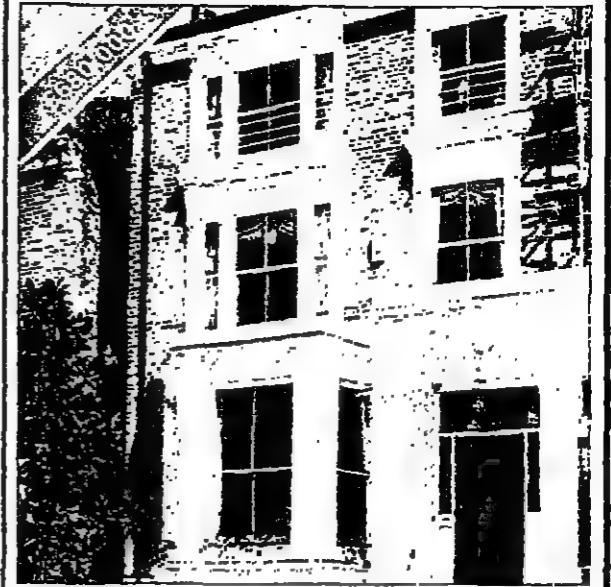
Island idyll: Laucala, the Fijian hideaway. The late Malcolm Forbes had his own home built high in the mountains. But his party guests could luxuriate in the seven extravagantly appointed holiday homes known as *bures* (above and left)

PROPERTY SWAP

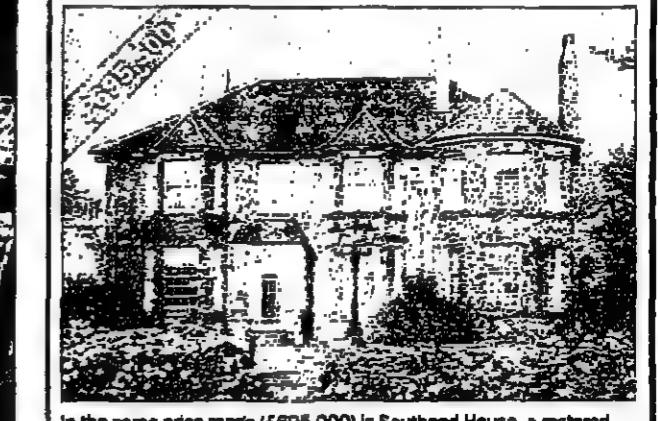
A SHORTAGE of good property in Clapham - from one-bedroom flats at £35,000 to double-fronted, seven-bedroom Victorian houses at £1.5 million - coupled with increased demand from city buyers looking for a location not close to the Tube, has fuelled price rises of 30 per cent in 15 months. Galleried flats in Edwardian terraced conversions at £335,000 and three and four-bedroom Victorian terraced houses, with large gardens, near Clapham Common, at £600,000 plus, are the most popular, says estate agent Friend & Falcke.

Four to five-bedroom detached houses from £120,000 to £200,000 within commuting distance of Newcastle are in constant demand, says agents Sawills. Relocating executives in Newcastle looking for family homes are moving to the countryside around Corbridge and Hexham, 15 miles west of Newcastle, where prices have increased by 230,000 per cent this year. Country houses look cheap, priced from £300,000 to £500,000.

Country houses in more than five acres of land, including a garage, costing from £350,000 to £650,000, are like gold dust in Northamptonshire. With St Pancras an hour by train from Kettering or 35 minutes from Milton Keynes, the whole area is commutable and highly sought-after. Popular areas include fox-hunting country between Northampton and Market Harborough and west towards Banbury, where prices have gained up to 12 per cent this year, says Quentin Jackson-Stops, of Jackson-Stops & Staff.



For £85,000 you could buy this four-storey semi-detached four-bedroom Victorian house, with a garden, in The Chase, Clapham Old Town, near Clapham Common underground station (Friend & Falcke, 0171-498 0736).



In the same price range (£685,000) is Southend House, a restored nine-bedroom Victorian mansion in a four-acre garden at Whitburn, to the east of Newcastle, Tyne & Wear. It comes with a ballroom, snooker room, swimming pool complete and a stable block (Savills, 01904 620731).



A similar sum (£685,000) will buy a manor house fit for a king. In Northamptonshire, the 12th-century Grade II*-listed Manor House at Brigstock, in four acres of garden and paddocks, was once owned by King John. It has ten bedrooms, five reception rooms, a separate self-contained two-bedroom flat and outbuildings (Savills, 01780 786222).

CHERYL TAYLOR

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Star guests: Forbes entertained Elizabeth Taylor

DREAM ISLANDS



RICHARD BRANSON owns the paradise island of Necker (left), one of the Virgin Islands in the Caribbean. He bought the formerly uninhabited, 74-acre island from Lord Cobham in 1979 for £200,000-£300,000 and had a Ball-styled ten-bedroom house built of Brazilian wood on Devil's Hill. The island, with its own lake, has a freshwater swimming pool on the edge of the hill, a tennis court and a gym.

DAVID AND FREDERICK BARCLAY, owners of *The European* and *The Scotsman* newspapers and The Ritz, bought the lease of the island of Breechou (right), one of the Channel Islands, in 1993 for £2.3 million. They built an imposing mock-Gothic castle with a chapel, two indoor swimming pools and an indoor all-weather garden, at a cost of around £27 million. The island also has its own water and electricity supply.

MARLON BRANDO owns the beautiful South Pacific island of Tetiaroa (left), the largest of a chain of undeveloped islands which he bought for £20,000 during the filming of *Mutiny on the Bounty* in 1966, and has used as a retreat from the rat-race in Hollywood for himself and his family. The island, which is only accessible by air, now has an airstrip, a six-room schoolhouse, several bungalows, sawmills and the actor's luxurious palm-thatched mansion.



Star guests: Forbes entertained Elizabeth Taylor

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A VET WRITES

Q We bought a British Shorthair kitten from a reputable breeder about a year ago. She had been given all her inoculations. About a month after we had her, she developed breathing problems and a discharge from her eyes and nose. We've taken her to the vet countless times. She's had X-rays, blood tests and antibiotics. Now we are told she has a chronic sinusitis which is likely to recur and there's no cure. She enjoys life, eats well and seems healthy except for this earthen problem. Can anything be done?

A A number of vets specialise in feline medicine. Ask your vet if he thinks a consultation would help. I think the chances of a complete cure are poor. It appears your kitten was infected with "cat flu" before you bought her, although there may not have been any signs at the time. Vaccination isn't effective, the germs are established and can't be eliminated. You'll be happier if you get a second opinion and it is quite likely that treatment will improve things.

Q I read in *The Sunday Times* that 65 dogs and 69 cats died in quarantine last year, which is 1.6 per cent of the 3,178 animals imported. I think this is terrible and, in itself, a reason for abolishing quarantine. What's your opinion?

A The "if only" factor comes in — if only he hadn't had to go into quarantine. But every pet dies one day. Quarantine lasts six months, so 1.6 per cent in a year is slightly less than one would expect. Rabies has occurred more than once in quarantine in the past 30 years and the "hardly ever happens argument" makes no more sense than scrapping the smoke alarm because the house hasn't caught fire.

Q Our labrador puppy is nearly six months old. We don't want to breed from her. When will she come into season and when should she be spayed?

A Her first heat will probably be next February-March. She will be old enough and spring is the natural time for dogs to mate. Ask your vet when he prefers to operate. Some suggest that the bitch has one season first so that she is fully developed. Others feel it is better that the operation is carried out earlier — any time from now onwards. There is nothing wrong with either approach.

JAMES ALLCOCK

The friendliest way to join the rat race

Forget the verminous image and cuddle up to an affectionate rodent, writes Alistair Riley

Rats have always had an image problem. They are seen as filthy, verminous, creepy creatures that steal food, transmit diseases and destroy farmers' livelihoods. The rat population in Britain is soaring — a 1995 national rodent survey concluded that rats now outnumber humans in Britain.

But that is only one type of rat — the one that is high on Rentokil's most wanted list, the subject of the nightmare of Room 101 in George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty Four*. A rat by another name — the domestic Fancy Rat — is fast becoming one of Britain's favourite household pets.

The two are as different as chalk and the stuff put in mouse traps. Domesticated rats are the same species as wild rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) but have entirely different temperaments, says Angela Horn, who keeps 30 rats at her Southeast London home. "They are the perfect affectionate pet and don't carry disease like wild rats. They are ideal for city-dwellers in small flats and working people with irregular hours. Just as long as you play with them and look after them properly before you go out and when you come home."

They adore companionship. There can be a dog-like bond between rats and their owners. They can tell the difference between people and love you once they get to know you. "They come when I call and jump up on to my body for a kiss and cuddle. A rat I've bred and sold might come up and say hello when I meet it as much as a year later at a rat show. It's very touching."

They also need a few friends to sniff and talk to, otherwise they get bored and lonely. But keep the sexes apart, unless you have a planned breeding programme in mind. Put a male rat among a few females and you will have dozens of extra mouths to feed. A female rat, a doe, can have a litter of up to 20 babies every month after just two months of her expected two-year lifespan.

FANCY THAT

■ The National Fancy Rat Society's symposium is at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1, today from 10am. Admission: £7.50 children, £15 adults. inclusive of lunch.

■ For a leaflet on ratkeeping, send a large SAE to Angela Horn, 28 King's Orchard, Eltham, London SE9 5TL. ■ NRFS website: <http://www.cableo.co.uk/nrfs>.



TICKLING THE FANCY: the domestic Fancy Rat, affectionate and ideal in small flats, is fast becoming one of Britain's favourite household pets

On sale will be the society's bi-monthly magazine called *Pro-Rata*, with small ads ("rat-sitter wanted") and a batched, matched and dispatched column. Sadly, most of the notices are for dispatched rats, wishing them well in raty heaven. The society is wired up for the millennium, and has its own web site on the Internet.

Angela Horn and her husband Graham decided to keep rats three years ago when they moved to London and couldn't have large animals.

They started off with Snowie the albino, Patch, a black-and-white hooded, and black Sweep; they have had in total more than 150 rats, though never more than about 30 at a time.

Angela and Graham say it costs about £2 a week to look after a couple of rats, after an initial outlay of £40 for a cage at least 2ft long.

They spend £5 weekly on rabbit food, with occasional dog mix, for her 30-strong ratpack, and another £20 to £30 a year on vet fees, mainly on neutering or having tumours removed.

She spends about an hour playing with her pets during the morning

feed, and the same again in the evening.

"That's how much I love rats," she says. "And so would anyone else who gets to know them. You'd be surprised how much fun and mischief there is packed into one small furry animal."



RATS ENJOY COMPANIONSHIP. ANGELA HORN PLAYS WITH HER RATS FOR AN HOUR EACH MORNING AND EVENING AFTER THEIR FEED



DULCIE is a six-year-old female cat who was brought in to Wood Green Animal shelter after her owner died. She is loyal and loving and would suit a quiet, caring home. Contact the Wood Green Animal Shelter, Highway Conage, Heydon, nr Royston, Hertfordshire (01763 838329).



Richard Maxwell: understanding horses' body language

ARE HORSE-WHISPERERS TAKING PEOPLE FOR A RIDE? CAROLYN HENDERSON MEETS THE REAL THING

When the Nicholas Evans novel about a horse whisperer galloped to the top of the best-seller charts there was a surge of real-life claimants to the title. Some claim to be able to read horses' thoughts, others massage "unheathy auras" and yet more relate behavioural problems to a horse's past lives.

It is a phenomenon that leaves many vets and experts bemused, amused — and worried that horses might suffer because owners tend to put sensational claims before science and skill.

The classic one I had was a horse who was presented as being very stiff," says Andy Bathe, equine surgeon at Cambridge University Veterinary Hospital and vet to the British three-day event team.

"The owners said, 'We've had the back man and he didn't do any good. Then we

had the horse whisperer and he couldn't help us, so we thought we'd better try the vet.'

The horse actually had navicular disease in the front feet, which made it lame.

"I've had two other horses brought to me by horse whisperers said horse problems, but the problems turned out to be in the feet. I'm open-minded, but I've yet to be impressed by a horse whisperer."

Classical riding teacher Heather Moffett agrees.

"There are a lot of charlatans, and it makes me cross that they are taking people's money. I do believe that there are people who have a healing gift, but there are an awful lot who have simply jumped on the bandwagon. I know one woman who was told that her horse was unhappy because he didn't like his

name!"

Trainers who work wonders without claiming psychic powers are now having to fight to distance themselves from mumbujumbu. Richard Maxwell is a prime example — a man who thinks like a horse, whose success is rooted in his understanding of the horse's psychology.

By using the horse's body language and working with its instincts, he achieves results that are making conventional trainers take a new look at their approach. He has had every ionic horror story you can think of at his Cambridgeshire yard — peaters, bolters, and buckers — but of the 800 plus horses he has dealt with, only a dozen proved impossible to help.

A former member of the Household Cavalry, Maxwell trained with the American horseman Monty Roberts, who broke in a wild mustang for BBC's *QED* series.

Nigel Davenport, chairman of the National Equine Welfare Council and director of the Blue Cross horse protection scheme, says trainers like Roberts and Maxwell are "the modern way forward". He puts his faith in vets and proven trainers rather than whisperers.

He says: "When someone

comes out of nowhere and starts saying strange things, I take it with a pinch of salt.

"It's good to see more compassion in training — but the good horsemen and women have always worked with compassion. There's no point in getting a horse to do things if he's in pain."

Max, as everyone calls Maxwell, winces at the label "horse whisperer" and talks about understanding instinctive behaviour. "People talk as if it's some kind of mystic art that only a few people in the world can do. It's not," he says.

"Of the horses that come here, 98 per cent have physical problems," Max says. His first step is to put these right with the help of dental, manipulative and veterinary specialists.

He then tunes into the horse's natural communications system to build trust and respect,

until it looks on him as the herd leader. The process, where he shows the horse that staying with him is more comfortable than running away, plays a key part. "You make him accountable for his actions," he explains.

Max says he is never frightened. "The minute fear enters your mind, you have to stop. If you take fear to an animal which is already frightened, you add to it. Fear travels through your muscle tone and the way you move. It probably changes the way you smell, too. Horses have a good sense of smell and an incredible sense of movement and direction — if you move in a frightened way, they'll pick it up."

Richard Maxwell can be contacted on 01223 830886. He is fully booked for the next three months, but does demonstrations throughout the country. Details on 01223 840131.

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REPLICA

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Can video collar their mass exodus?

The Catholic church hopes a film will solve its priest-recruitment difficulties, says Ruth Gledhill



Father James McCartney at his parish church of St Anne's

As vocations to the priesthood drop below replacement level, the Roman Catholic church has taken the unprecedented step of preparing a recruitment video promoting the joys of becoming a priest.

The video, to be issued to 4,000 secondary schools next month counters the image of the celibate Catholic priesthood as a 'Ballykissangel-style idyl, or job devoid of excitement and dominated by a ceaseless round of saying Mass and hearing confession.'

The priesthood is portrayed instead as an exciting and demanding career, likely to appeal to a wide range of young men seeking a challenge in life.

And while priests don't have much to write home about in terms of salary or worldly status, the aim is to persuade schoolboys that the spiritual and emotional rewards far outweigh the lack of material remuneration on offer.

The unparalleled recruitment drive comes at a time when the number of annual ordinations has fallen by a quarter in Britain, from 101 in 1978 to 76 in 1994. In 1994 alone the church lost 100 priests who passed away, on top of those who left to marry or for other reasons, meaning the replacement level is far below what it needs to be if the Catholic church is to sustain its ideal of a priest in every parish in Britain.

Figures for this year are expected to be even worse, with most dioceses reporting exceptionally

low morale among priests after the affair of Roderick Wright, the Scottish priest who eloped with a divorcee amid a torrent of publicity.

The British decline contrasts with a healthy picture worldwide, where the number of young men entering seminaries to train for the priesthood has increased from 60,000 in 1975 to 105,000 in 1994.

The only significant departure from the British decline came after the Pope's visit in 1982, when vocations shot up for two or three years. The same phenomenon is currently being reported in France, in the wake of the Pope's recent visit there.

And in further blow to the church, Catholic schools, once considered a rich recruiting ground for the priesthood, are being hit as increasing numbers of former pupils are breaking with tradition by sending their sons to non-Catholic schools, such as Eton, instead.

From having a mere handful of Catholic boys in the 1970s, Eton now has 142 Catholic pupils out of a total of 1,280 and has even appointed a resident Catholic chaplain, Father David Forrester, to care for their spiritual needs.

Blaise Davies, a former monk at Ampleforth Abbey, Yorkshire, was commissioned to produce the video and poster campaign at a vocations conference in Rome last year. The footage features a young offender, once a notorious absconder from care who earned the nickname 'Spider Boy', in his conversion to Christianity and subsequent baptism.

"In no way are we proselytising," says Mr Davies, 32, who decided the priesthood was not for him because of his desire one day to have a family of his own. Nevertheless, he still supports the ideal of the celibate priesthood and worked



Fr McCartney, one of the stars of the video, talks to homeless youths in his parish. He has set up Thomas, an organisation helping those on the margins of society

it. It shows two priests, Fr James McCartney of Blackburn and Fr Philip Sumner of Moss Side, Manchester, in their work with drug addicts, the homeless and people living on the margins of society.

It also shows hospital chaplain Fr Stephen Pritchard of Fazakerley, Liverpool, working with the terminally ill, and Fr Mike White of Alton Castle Retreat Centre in Derbyshire working with schoolchildren. The life of the trainee priest in a seminary in Chelsea, London is featured, as is the work that goes into preparing couples for marriage.

"In no way are we proselytising," says Mr Davies, 32, who decided the priesthood was not for him because of his desire one day to have a family of his own. Nevertheless, he still supports the ideal of the celibate priesthood and worked



The recruitment video shows a young offender converting to Christianity and being baptised by a prison chaplain, Father Patrick Cope

closely with Ampleforth for several years, leaving recently to set up his own company, Purple Media.

"Negative images of the clergy in the wake of the Roderick Wright affair, coupled with more light-hearted ones such as Father Ted and 'Ballykissangel', do little to

inform the 96 per cent of the population which has little to do with church about the day-to-day challenges facing the average priest.

"It was not uncommon a generation or so ago for priests to suggest to young men that they may have a

vocation to the priesthood," he says. "It was accepted at that time that the priest was part of the family and he featured greatly in their lives.

"Such an environment, coupled with regular churchgoing, made priesthood normal and made marketing it relatively easy.

"Now, with all the social changes and the prominence of church-related scandals, many members of the clergy feel, albeit falsely, that their currency has been devalued and that their relationships with lay people are viewed with suspicion."

Fr McCartney, 35, the parish priest of St Anne's, Blackburn, says he left his former career as a hospital technician to find spiritual satisfaction as a priest.

At St Anne's, he has set up Thomas, an organisation to help those on the margins of society, and

also publishes a quarterly magazine, *Edges*, carrying articles by bishops alongside articles and poems by drug addicts, prostitutes and homeless people.

"I was interested in the spiritual dimension, in transcendence and mystery," he says. "Working in an operating theatre at Manchester Royal Infirmary, I began to question the meaning of life. I came across a lot of people who were dying, I didn't really find fulfilment in what I was doing."

In his parish, in the heart of Blackburn's red-light district, he finds spiritual satisfaction in seeking God among the ruins of the lives of those who attend his day centre. Many are being helped by him to escape lives blighted by drug addiction and alcoholism. "Without the people on the streets, I don't think I would have been ordained," he says.

Credo

God's message is one of hope

Dr Jonathan Sacks

Rosh Hashanah — the Jewish New Year which begins this Wednesday — signals the start of ten days of intense self-examination culminating in Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. For me these days have never lost their power to create an atmosphere of vivid spirituality. The synagogue is full. And from the sound of the ram's horn on Rosh Hashanah to the climax of the fasting and prayer on Yom Kippur, you can almost touch the divine presence. We come before God, bringing Him our lives and our shortcomings. We think of the past year, the wrong we did, the people we hurt and the good we failed to do. For a moment, the synagogue becomes a courtroom and God a judge. We plead, nor our innocence but our all-too-frequent guilt. Yet despite the solemnity of this drama, its ultimate message is one of hope.

The reason is that at the heart of these days is the idea of divine forgiveness. God does not ask us to be perfect. In giving us freedom, He empowers us to make mistakes. All He asks is that we acknowledge them, make amends where we can and dedicate ourselves to doing a little better next time.

Forgiveness is a profoundly relational idea. It flows from a particular conception of the universe and our place in it. Reality is more than a set of blind forces, the genetic stream, the survival of the fittest, the march of technology or the play of the market. Beneath them all, more distant than the stars, closer than our innermost thoughts, is a Thou to whom we speak in prayer and who speaks to us in the silence of self-knowledge. God is the fact of otherwise faceless chance, our one assurance that hope is not an illusion.

Without God, fate would seem immeasurably cruel. The poor, the sick, what the brother of Diana, Princess of Wales called "the constituency of the rejected", would be the victims of inexorable forces — war, famine, economic progress. There would be



God's love is the bridge

I recently visited a drug rehabilitation centre. I wanted to deepen my understanding of repentance (in Hebrew, *tshuvah*). On the Jewish High Holy Days we believe that by reflecting on the past, seeing where we went wrong and expressing our remorse, we can break its hold on us and change into better human beings. I thought that by talking to young drug addicts trying to break the habit, I would gain an insight into what changes lives. It was a profoundly moving experience. They were likeable young people who had never had much of a chance. They came from broken families. Many had a history of child abuse. I could understand why they wanted to escape from pain. I admired their courage now in fighting addiction.

I asked the director what, in her view, were the most important things the centre gave them. She said: "This is the first place they have encountered unconditional love. And we are the first people who care enough about them to say so."

The more I thought about it, the more I realised she had expressed the great truth about God's love for us. It is non-judgmental. There is an absolute difference between good and evil, right and wrong. God cares enough about us to say so. But it is unconditional. However often we fail, God never gives up on us. For me, that belief is the source of courage, strength and hope. God's love is the bridge from what we are to what we are called on to be.

• Dr Sacks is the Chief Rabbi.

First steps on a journey into the light

Ruth Gledhill visits a London parish which has acquired not only a retired bishop as its new vicar, but also his son



Father and son: the Baughens

AFTER languishing without a vicar of their own for more than a year, the parishioners of St James in Clerkenwell, north London, are still in a state of elated surprise, having landed the ministry of not only a retired bishop, but of his son as well. The Right Rev Michael Baughen, 67, a traditional evangelical who shot to ecclesiastical prominence during his time as rector of the BBC church, All Souls in Langham Place, and then became Bishop of Chester, has been appointed priest-in-charge of St James. His son, Andrew, 33, also an evangelical but from the more modern mould of HTB (Holy Trinity Brompton in Knightsbridge), has become priest-in-charge designate.

Bishop Baughen intends to be present at the church for as many Sundays as possible and will

share the preaching with his son:

"It will be wonderful to work with my son. He has tremendous gifts and it is a great delight to be able to learn from him."

We were at the church, which

counts *The Guardian* newspaper

building at one end of its parish and poverty-ridden council estates at the other, for the licensing and installation of the two men. Bishop Baughen is tall, but his son is more so, at six feet. Towering over his father, he unveiled his plans for this unsuspecting parish. "The journey into the light" was to begin with toddler groups, a Tuesday club for the elderly, aerobics and uniformed clubs. There is to be "JC Works", a ten-week introduction to Christianity, "TGI Sunday", a fast-moving bible, drama and singing show on Sunday mornings and "JC Access", an evening discussion, music and preaching group.

Christians are not asked to leave their current churches, but maybe to "take a sabbatical" and "come as a launcher" to St James. The

key words are praying, building, loving, submitting, speaking, giving and receiving.

First there was the licensing by Dr John Sentamu, the Bishop of Stepney, also an evangelical, who preached, and the installation by

the Ven Clive Young, Archdeacon of Hackney. Rachel Baughen, read from Philippians. A beautiful, blonde baby Baughen toddled around, demanding cuddles from her father. Father and son publicly declared their assent to the Anglican inheritance of faith. "The Church of England is part of the One, Holy Catholic and Apostolic church worshipping the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit," the archdeacon said.

"I Andrew, I Michael, do so affirm, and accordingly declare my belief in the faith which is revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the Catholic Creeds," said the two men. I left, pondering the phenomenon of evangelicalism enjoying a revival in our churches, but reflecting that this was one parish at least that was truly Baughen again.

• St James, Clerkenwell, London EC1V 4NP (0171-251 1190)

Church services tomorrow

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC: 10.30 S

EUCH: Schubert in G: 3.45 E.

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 4.15

M: 10 Ordination. Missa Sancti

Nicolaie: 3 E: 6.30 ES, Canon A

Mawson.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.15

EUCH: Canon R Gray: 3 E: Collegium

Regale (Howells).

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC:

10 Euch. Missa Brevis (Mozart).

THE ABBEY: 10.30 Euch. The

Assistant Bishop: 4 Ch E. I lift my eyes

(Baughen).

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC:

10.30 Euch, Ave verum corpus (Byrd):

3.30 E.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP:

10.30 Euch: 3 Harvest Festival.

LET THE PEOPLE PRAISE THEM (Mathews): 4 HC.

LLANDaff CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M &

1.30 Euch: 11.30 Euch. Sung mass in F:

12.15 Euch: 3.30 Festal E: 6.30 Parish E.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 E:

4.30 M: 9.30 Euch. Mozart in C.

Canon J Bennett: 6 Ch E

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M:

Jubilate in A (Gray): 6.30 Euch.

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP:

10.30 Euch. Missa Brevis (Palestrina):

3.30 Euch. Ave verum corpus (Byrd):

3.30 E.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL:

9.30 M: 10.30 Euch. 3 E. Blair in B minor.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL:

7.40 MP: 8.30 Euch. Missa Brevis in C

(Motorni), Canon P Destrade: 3

Farewell Service for Bishop of

Coventry.

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.15 S

Euch. Little Organ Mass (Haydn),

Canon T Chetwray: 6 Ch E.

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL: Old

Aberdeen: 11 MS: O sing ye angels

(Batten): 6 ES. Rev K Frazer.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL: Dublin:

8.30 II Euch: 11.15 S Euch: 3.15 Ch E.

Wesley (Wednesdays).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square: W:

8.30 II Euch: 11 Ch Euch. Dark in F. The

Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8.30 HC: 11 S

Euch. Rev K. Rev G. Urwin.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 8.45



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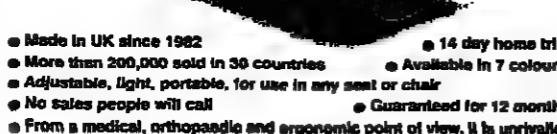
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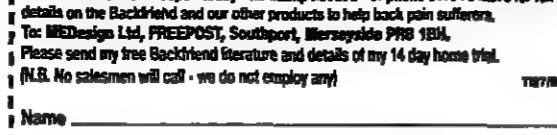
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ROGER SCUTON/IMPACT

The price of fish — the history of Britain's deep-sea fishermen is a topical subject under discussion at Higham Hall in Cumbria in October

OCTOBER 3-5

Watercolour painting: botanical illustration: Lectures on opera. *The Marriage of Figaro*: At West Dean College, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 811301). Prices £150 residential, £97 non-residential.

Cylinders to CDs, a history of recorded sound: Gold thread embroidery: At Alston Hall Residential College, Preston, Lancashire (01772 784661). Prices from £75 for two nights inclusive.

Suffolk's medieval houses: Calligraphy: At the Field Studies Centre, Flatford Mill, East Bergholt, Colchester, Essex (01206 298283), from £72-£102.

Walking in the autumn landscape: Guided walks on the North Downs of Surrey from Juniper Hall Field Studies Centre, Dorking (01306 883849). Prices from £79-£102, according to accommodation.

Memoir writing: *The Work of Handel*: A patchwork workshop: At Higham Hall, Bassenthwaite Lake, Cockerham, Cumbria (017687 76276). Price per course £112 inclusive.

Talking with confidence: Japanese gardening: Towards the millennium: Miniature painting: At Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Bucks (01494 890295). Prices from £150 residential or £69 non-residential.

Inghamshire (01494 890295). From £159 residential or £69 non-residential.

Writing poetry: Medieval art: At Wedgwood Memorial College, Barlaston, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire (01782 372105). Price per course £70 inclusive.

Dig this: British archaeology: The green man: At Wenham Lodge, Norwich (01603 66002). Price per course £84 inclusive.

The high Victorian garden: At University of Oxford, Rewley House, Oxford, in association with the Garden History Society (01865 270360). Price £44.

Illustrating autumn fruits and fungi: Myths, dreams and impossibilities: At University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall, Cambridge (01954 210636). Price £117 per course inclusive.

Golfing enthusiasts' weekend in Scotland: At Balbirnie House, Markinch, Fife (01592 610066). Two nights, including one round at Balbirnie Park golf course, with half-board accommodation. From £99.50 per person per night.

Wildlife weekend on the coast of Pembrokeshire: With Acorn Activities at Hovingham in Yorkshire: With Lars Tharp, the television expert, at the Worsey Arms Hotel

WEEKEND COURSES AND ACTIVITIES

walks, talks and tours from £150 inclusive.

Elementary wind chamber music: At the Benslow Music Trust, Hitchin, Hertfordshire (01422 459446). From £102-£116 inclusive.

The life and works of Vincent Van Gogh: Aromatherapy and reflexology: At Braziers, Ipsden, Wallingford, Oxfordshire (01491 680221). Price per course £92.

Heritage Wexsex tours: From the White Hart Hotel, Andover, Hampshire (01264 352266). Chauffeured visits to Salisbury Cathedral, Stonehenge, Winchester and Wilton House. Price, including half-board accommodation, transport and entrance fees, £196 for two nights.

Caving, climbing, hang-gliding, mountain navigation: Based at Edale in the Peak District. From YHA Adventure Trails (01772 845047). Prices for two nights from £93 per person; hang-gliding from £163.

The price of fish — the history of Britain's deep-sea fishermen: At Higham Hall, Bassenthwaite Lake, Cockerham, Cumbria (017687 76276). Price per course £112 inclusive.

Antiques weekend at Hovingham in Yorkshire: With Lars Tharp, the television expert, at the Worsey Arms Hotel

(01653 628234). An insight into the world of antiques and fine art. Accommodation, all activities and tutored wine tastings from £199.

Cider and wine tasting weekend on the Welsh border: With Acorn Activities of Hereford (01432 830083). Price, inclusive of accommodation and tastings, £195.

Conservation weekends: With the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. Wallingford, Oxfordshire (01491 839766). A variety of conservation projects need the help of willing hands. Weekend rates, full board and accommodation from £20. Skills taught include dry stone walling, thatching and hedge-laying.

Pottery, throwing and turning: Watercolours for beginners. Opera and recital masterclass. Introduction to woodturning: At West Dean College, Chichester, Sussex (01243 811301). From £150 residential and £97 non-residential.

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Piano workshop: Painting miniatures: Walking sticks: At Higham Hall, Bassenthwaite Lake, Cockerham, Cumbria (017687 76276). Price per course £112 inclusive.

Intermediate French: Mixed media painting: Countryside walks and talks: Italian opera: At Hill Residential Centre, Abergavenny, South

Wales (01873 855221). From £88 inclusive.

Garden painting at a classic English house: King Arthur: Hypnosis and relaxation: At Knutsford Hall, Irchester, Northamptonshire (01933 312104). From £98 inclusive.

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Personalities of the First World War: British teddy bears: What's that bird? Walking the Ridgeway Path: At Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire (01494 890295). Prices from £159 full board, or £59 non-residential.

ROBIN NEILANDS

ON THE SPOT

Rural recommendations

The place: Bolton Priory, Skipton, North Yorkshire. The view: Ahead lie the priory and River Wharfe and to your right, gentle slopes leading to Barden Fell, culminating in Simon's Seat, the highest point in the area. Barden Moor lies northwest and in autumn the landscape is a vivid golden brown.

The appeal: An unspoilt, rural area of natural beauty.

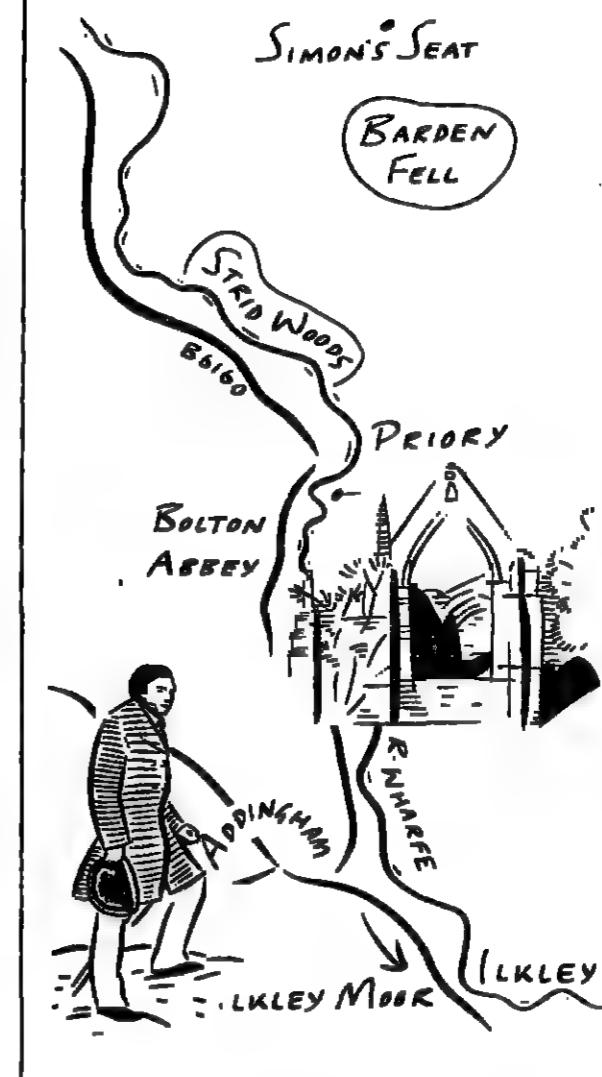
Aficionados: Ramblers, birdwatchers and anglers. Historical interest: The impressive priory dates from the 12th century, when it was built for Augustinian canons after a young boy drowned in the deep, fast-flowing water of The Strid. The beautiful setting has inspired Wordsworth, Ruskin and Turner, who created a famous watercolour of the scene.

Time to visit: The grounds and nature trails are open all year round.

How to get there: B6160 to Bolton Abbey. From the village car park walk towards the "Hole in the Wall", and cross the river by footbridge or stepping stones.

OS reference: G75 543 on sheet 104. Also nearby: 30 miles of nature trails through the Strid Woods. Fine trout fishing and six miles southeast lies Ilkley Moor.

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Satellite technology allowing rural dwellers to keep an eye on their neighbours could also kill off at least one cherished tradition

To get a proper view of the countryside, you have to get up high. And I do not mean halfway up a mountain. Just a few feet will do, and then you will find yourself peering into a new and unobserved world. Elevate yourself a little more and you will suddenly realise that the countryside you thought you knew is a stranger to you.

I first learnt this some years ago when I owned a pair of field ponies. Ebony and China, which I drove around the Suffolk lanes. The box seat — from where the carriage was driven — placed me a couple of feet higher than Range Rover drivers: add to that the bonus of travelling at a sedate five or six miles per hour, and meandering through the English countryside becomes a revelation.

We found cottages in unsuspected places behind bramble-ridden gardens: we surprised gardeners who thought their beech hedges were high enough to prevent any intrusions: we gave cows a fright as we appeared over fences. An additional effect of the extra height was to

push the horizon away from us by several miles, which offered a new appreciation of how our neighbouring farms and villages, until then viewed in isolation, related to each other.

So, having had a taste of wider vistas, I welcome the arrival next month of the EarlyBird satellite, which its commercial owners will use to supply spy photographs on demand. Although many of its customers will be fractious neighbours trying to settle disputes ranging from unauthorised car parking to illegal bonfire lighting, the effects on country life could be far more rewarding.

The pictures will be far from perfect, because only features greater than a metre across are visible. This rules out most individuals, but we will be able to spot the hedgerows that are being secretly removed, the 4x4 drivers churning along unauthorised tracks, and the irrigation ponds built with hefty subsidy

being used as swimming pools or trout fisheries.

Slender tresspassers for the moment, will get away with their ramblings providing their rucksacks are not overstuffed: but landowners who fail to keep open their footpaths can be spotted and acted upon.

There is, of course, a civil rights aspect to all this: country dwellers may well complain at the gross intrusion into their privacy. Rural crime is rare compared with inner cities, so the arguments in favour of closed-circuit TV surveillance hardly apply. (This may change. I was stopped in a local market

town to be told by an elderly lady that she had just "suffered a night of violence". On closer questioning, she revealed in a shocked voice that two lads who had drunk a bottle of cider too many kicked a football down the street at one o'clock in the morning for all of five minutes.)

The ability of the satellite to pick up smaller details will surely increase. Farmers will soon be able to see where the rabbits burrow at night, which cars drop old bedsteads by gateways at dusk, and identify the picnickers who discard crisp packets on summer afternoons.

And in the field of pure nosiness, one of the traditional sports of country life, the satellite could be of great help.

Rural nosiness is largely innocent and born out of honest curiosity. The best example I know is that of farm workers a century ago. On Sunday afternoons, when farm work was suspended, their sport was to walk the lanes and peer over the gates of all the other farms, observing the standard of the workmanship and the straightness of the ploughing.

In extreme cases, such as wandering furrows, remarks were made later in the pub and legs severely pulled. I have often been tempted into nosy ways. We once had a neighbour who grew onions from seed with such success that his garden became a place of pilgrimage. If asked how he did it, his unhelpful reply was always "nowt special about onions".

Now we would be able to track him from above, and see the feed he was dosing them with, and whether it was by moonlight.

Another enigmatic keeper of Suffolk Punches would never reveal his secrets of feeding carthorses. His horses looked like Mr Universe, but when asked how he did it, he always replied, "they just eat what they get on the meadow".

What they are there, of course, was more than just the grass. He was regularly carting buckets of something to them. But he took the secret to his grave. Had he been alive today, we could all have bought satellite pictures of his furtive feeding and have carthorses looking like Charles Atlas.

It is bad news for those confiners of farm animals who try and kid us they have free-range hens, cattle or pigs. We shall be able to see exactly how much time the inmates of Sunnyside Farm actually spend in the open air. The only bad news is that the spy in the sky will be the death-knell of one keenly pursued rural pastime that has stood the test of time. It involves haystacks. Work it out.

Readers' letters are welcome on countryside matters, of all kinds. Address them to: Paul Heiney, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. They are published on the first Saturday of the month.

New Forest ponies face a hard winter

Decline of the once-prized pets endangers an ancient way of life, says Trevor Lawson



New Forest ponies are considered too small by children

Ray Bennett breathes in sharply and shakes his head. "It's getting more difficult all the time," he says. "The future is looking delicate, to say the least."

Bennett, 68, lives in the New Forest, where he runs more than 100 ponies on the forest commons. He has been a New Forest commoner for more than 50 years, buying and rearing his first pony in 1946.

Things were easier then, he says. There was a market for the ponies he reared. Now there isn't. New Forest ponies have, sadly, fallen out of fashion, and their future is now in the balance.

At this time of year the commoners round up their ponies in the annual pony drifts just as they have for centuries.

But this year as they worm them, brand them or sell them where they can find buyers, many commoners are heavy at heart. Where once foals were selling for 80 guineas each, now they fetch just 11 guineas.

"Prices are very bad. Through the years there has always been a demand for the ponies but now that has gone," he says. "The children of today want something bigger than a forest pony. And there isn't the demand for pit ponies any more either."

The number of New Forest ponies has declined from 4,200 in 1994 to 3,300 today. Sue Westwood, Clerk to the Verderers, a sort of medieval court responsible for the management of stock in the New Forest, believes that the commoners will have to breed better ponies to survive.

"The New Forest pony has not got the same appeal as some of the more flashy breeds such as the Welsh Cob," she says. "If this trend continues then commoning is at risk."

And if commoning is at risk, so too is the forest. "It is essential to the ecology of the forest. Commoning is the architect of the forest. If the stock

wasn't there, it would become overgrown and inaccessible," says Westwood.

Cattle graze the forest but they are subsidised because they are classed as agricultural animals. But ponies receive no subsidy.

Each commoner — you have to occupy land which has common rights attached to be able to run ponies — pays £15 per pony to the Verderers Court, which then pays the "agisters" to supervise the stock.

"No commoner makes a living out of commoning any more. The cattle are more lucrative, but anybody with ponies has to have another source of income," says Ray Bennett.

"People like to keep up a tradition, but not if it is losing them money."

Some 400 commoners exercise rights in the New Forest but few run the great herds of ponies that were once the norm.

"Nowadays we have hobby commoners. A lot of people do it because they like to see ponies," she adds. "People like to turn out two or three ponies now."

Some of the old hands have suggested these incomers are not real ponymen. "They are very different, these New Age commoners," says Ray Bennett.

"They're not the same at all."

Richard Stride, who is one of the forest's 10 verderers and whose great-grandfather was

a commoner, agrees: "They keep a couple of ponies for a hobby and they go off to London and say 'Oh I'm a commoner in the New Forest', but riding two ponies is all that the forest means to them."

Despite their comparatively amateurish attitude, the incomers may yet turn out to be the saviours of the New Forest pony.

Often, they are wealthy enough to be able to withstand the losses that are currently associated with commoning. Yet

their presence symbolises the increasing commercialisation of the forest, which has put further pressure on common

land. In the 1960s, an Act of Parliament allowed certain roads to be fenced off because of accidents. Some years later, more roads were fenced off along with certain towns as heavier volumes of traffic rushed through the forest.

One commoner, Chris Anderson, says that the failure of one of his mares to come in with other ponies in the drift this year is simply another symptom of the trend.

"She might have been hit by a car and died in the bracken somewhere. More ponies get run down every year — there must have been 20 in the last couple of months," he says. Each pony lost, usually run over by a commuter rather than a tourist, takes with it £35 that might have been earned from a sale.

The fencing-off causes its

own problems. There is less forest now for the ponies. "It's getting smaller all the time," explains Ray Bennett. "There's less area for the ponies to run over."

"They used to be able to go into Lyndhurst but they can't do that any more. I am against further fencing, but the amount of traffic now passing through is so awful that they

cannot do anything else."

Development, too, is taking its toll. Richard Stride, explains: "A forest man's place used to be small and the land just around it was used to bring in livestock in hard weather. Nowadays, it has been turned into a mansion so the land is lost.

"You can't blame the people for doing it but they are

ruining the forest because they don't want to run scores of ponies and why should they? There's no real money in it."

As the Ray Bennetts of the forest head off on horseback for the drifts this autumn, there will be little evidence of these "New Age" hobby commoners. For them, commoning is a fair-weather activity.

Watching the wary woodpigeon

FEATHER REPORT

THE British Trust for Ornithology has a new method of estimating the changes in the bird population of the United Kingdom. It is called the Breding Bird Survey, and during the past two years it has taken the place of the old Common Birds Census, which ran for 35 years. The main difference is that the sample of the country that is now covered includes all the main bird habitats, including towns and moorland, whereas the old CBC confined itself to farmland, woodland and river banks.

Judging by the survey, the most widely distributed bird in 1996 was the woodpigeon, closely followed by the chaffinch, while the most abundant bird overall was the starling, closely followed by the woodpigeon. So the woodpigeon comes out strong.

You would not be surprised by that if you wandered through the newly ploughed fields at the moment. Sometimes you see in the distance what looks like an enormous misty-blue cloud that has settled on the earth. When you get a little closer you see that it is a great flock of woodpigeons busily feeding. It is hard to get close to the flock, since in the country woodpigeons are wary birds, but if you stalk them you will see one fascinating feature.

The whole flock is moving forward slowly across the field. But in the front the birds are looking round them more and pecking at the ground less often. Sometimes these front



birds even look a bit smaller and undernourished. They are the submissives members of the flock, rather frightened of the great body of dominant members behind them. They are likely to lead the way when the flock is alarmed and rises from the field with a thunderous roar of clapping wings.

Starlings also feed in large flocks at this time of the year, but they seem to have plenty of spare time. A characteristic autumn sound

is a party of them sitting in a tree making whirring and clicking calls, and occasionally a more musical whistle or trill. They often do this before all flying off to roost together.

Chaffinches also flock in the autumn, but many of these are immigrants from Scandinavia. Often they are pure hen parties, since the females desert the north sooner and travel further than the males. They make their headquarters in trees at the edge of a field, and drop down to

the ground to pick up seeds when the coast is clear. At the first sign of danger they fly up into the branches again. There is a constant movement up and down as each bird follows its own impulse. At a distance they look like leaves falling and being blown upwards at the same time.

Another set of figures in the new report shows changes in the numbers of different species between 1994 and 1996. On the whole, it makes cheering reading. Common partridges, which have been in serious decline for some time, picked up a little over those two years, and summer visitors such as the willow warbler and garden warbler have made a recovery, suggesting that conditions have been better for them in their African winter quarters. Wrens, which a few years ago were the commonest British birds, were hit by the cold winter of 1995-96, but that is something that must have happened many times in their history. The farmland birds are still suffering most. The cheerful yellowhammer, which seemed to have escaped the fate of the corn bunting and linnet, has now joined them on the downward trend.

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• What's about Birders — mixed flocks of Tits, Goldcrests and Treecreepers in woodland.
• Starlings — a First Winter Pied Wheatear on St Mary's, Isles of Scilly; a Wilson's Phalarope on the point of Ayr, North Wales; a Richard's Pipit on Portland, Dorset.
• Details from Birdline. 0891 700222. Calls cost 50p a minute.

Objects of Desire

THE MODERN STILL LIFE

October 9, 1997-January 4, 1998 at the Hayward Gallery

An exclusive reader evening

Readers of *The Times* are invited to an exclusive private view of the first comprehensive exhibition to celebrate and explore the 20th-century still life.

The evening on November 6, 1997, from 6.30-8.30pm, includes a guided tour of the exhibition and an informal reception with wine in the Hayward Gallery on the South Bank, London.

The exhibition, created by the Museum of Modern Art in New York, brings together over 160 modern masterpieces from collections worldwide. Highlights include Marcel Duchamp's *Bicycle Wheel*, Man Ray's spike-covered iron, *Gift*, Matisse's *Goldfish and Palette*, Meret Oppenheim's fur-covered teacup and saucer, *Object*, a white *Lobster Telephone* by Salvador Dali, René Magritte's *The Interpretation of Dreams*, Jasper Johns's *Flag*, and *Brillo Boxes* by Andy Warhol.

From Cézanne to Koons, this exhibition explores the ways in which exceptional artists and exceptional works have transformed the vision and meaning of the still life in the modern age.



Tickets: £12 (includes entrance to the exhibition, guided tour and drinks). Call the Hayward Gallery box office on 0171-960 4242. (Tickets must be purchased in advance. There is a £1 charge for telephone bookings for handling and postage). Objects of Desire: The Modern Still Life is organised under the auspices of The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art, New York.

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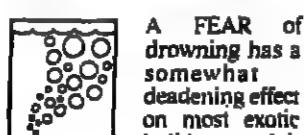
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REX FEATURES



Helmet diving is advertised as the only underwater experience in which you can keep your spectacles on. But in fact, the real attraction is that although the helmet is not sealed, air pressure keeps the water out — and your hair dry



A FEAR of drowning has a somewhat deadening effect on most exotic holiday activities — at least, that is my experience. If you are the sort of person who pictures their own lungs as a pair of crumpled plastic bags ready to balloon with gallons of salt water, snorkelling adventures tend not to be top of your must-do holiday list.

At Flatts Village in Bermuda, however, they operate a rather clever system called helmet diving, specially devised for neurotic weaklings and aquaphobes. It is advertised as the only underwater experience in which you can keep your specs on.

But it is more than that. Helmet diving is also one of the few underwater experiences in which you remain standing up and look very, very silly. It is inelegant, it looks ridiculous, and you don't see very much in the way of marine bio-diversity. But for certain unheroic types, standing ten feet underwater in a swimsuit breathing pumped air and keeping your hair dry feels like a giant step for recreational technology, if not for mankind.

The string of islands that composes Bermuda is arranged deliberately to have

maximum coastline for minimum land-mass, yet perhaps because the water is the wild blue Atlantic (and the wealthy resident population is temperamentally sedate), there is not so much mad plumping and diving into the fearful H2O as elsewhere in the jet-set yacht world. Helmet diving fits the ethos of Bermuda itself, helmet diving is safe, sensible, friendly, civilised, clean. In short, it is for boring, unadventurous travellers like me.

So, the boat chugs off from its base at Flatts Village on the north shore, and as it heads towards its regular mooring spot of colourless, shallow coral reef, our bronzed instructor (we'll call him Joe) explains about the big glass-fronted brass helmets which are designed to sit loosely on your shoulders, their substantial weight stopping you from floating off the ocean floor. Joe also explains the simple physics by which the air pumped into the helmets through tubes keeps water out, even though the helmet is not sealed.

Miraculously, if you have an itchy nose, you can reach

inside and scratch it. "Really?" we all say. The small group of (mainly fat) American tourists look unconvinced by all this reassurance, as am I. Forget physics: what happens if you fall over? Water would get in then, wouldn't it? An American child in a pink swimsuit spends most of the breezy outward journey teaching me how to do a useful facial trick called "fish lips" — rather ominous in the circumstances. I don't want to kiss any fish. Especially, of course, if it leads to sleeping with them.

To suppress panic I apply inside and scratch it. "Really?" we all say. The small group of (mainly fat) American tourists look unconvinced by all this reassurance, as am I. Forget physics: what happens if you fall over? Water would get in then, wouldn't it? An American child in a pink swimsuit spends most of the breezy outward journey teaching me how to do a useful facial trick called "fish lips" — rather ominous in the circumstances. I don't want to kiss any fish. Especially, of course, if it leads to sleeping with them.

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ladder into the water. "No problem," they say. There will be a light jump required when the rungs run out, they explain; after which I will be standing on the seabed. A helmet is lifted on to my shoulders and lifted straight off again when I squeal "No!" and shake my head. Help, help, can't breathe, diving, help help, "I've got a bigger helmet, try this," says the nice assistant and places another on my shoulders. I test it with a few breaths.

I EDGE down another rung, but when the water laps the glass, I step right back up again. Down. Up. Down. Everyone is patient, though the people already immersed must be bored by now, with nothing to do except breathe, stand around and scratch their noses. Another woman has simply refused to go down and I find that I love her very much. A holidaymaker more namby-pamby than me is a rare discovery.

Later I learn that the so-called "bigger helmet" was nothing of the sort. It was in reality a cunning trick to make scared people feel more se-

cure. But it worked. Reassured by the roominess of the new helmet, I finally descend the ladder, jump off the bottom rung and land on the sand four feet below. And for the next gruelling 15 minutes, while Joe routinely demonstrates the feeding of coral (boring) and shuffles us into well-worn camera positions (also boring), I fight panic, suppress squeaks and pray that someone else is paying the same attention to the effect of the incoming tide — which is in danger of lifting the boat's ladder just beyond our reach.

Is it a big thing or a little thing, this helmet dive? Well, obviously, it is really very small potatoes. For me, it is momentous to be underwater and still alive. But as for Joe — a man snug in his designer wetsuit — it is quite clear that Joe leading eight people around a tiny area of seabed in shallow water is like Damon Hill driving a lot of lifelong pedestrians around a mini-roundabout in a milk float.

I smile at Joe apologetically through the glass and then stop when I realise the expression may be interpreted as "I'm about to be sick". Which is an alarming thought. I mean, what were you sick in the helmet? With such happy

thoughts, I finally regain the ladder and clamber back on board. Only then do I realise I should have tried to enjoy the experience. Unfortunately, enjoyment did not seem an option at the time.

Travellers to Bermuda are not obliged to helmet dive.

There are lots of other activities: night life in the city of Hamilton; arts-and-crafts shopping at the old naval dockyard; glass-bottom boat trips; and incredibly expensive meals outdoors on warm starlit nights, with Atlantic breezes playing in the palms. I even saw an Alan Ayckbourn farce, performed with surreal inadequacy at one of the top hotels. But Bermuda is one of the few places where you can

go helmet diving — which makes it sort-of unmissable.

I cannot remember much about the coral, though I can still do "fish-lips", so it was not a complete waste.

Joe had taught us some sign-language before descent, to indicate coral asleep, coral breathing — but it all looked a bit grey and dusty down there, and the main interest was Joe's efficiency in manoeuvring us into camera positions for the all-important video. My overall sensation remained one of hysterical self-amazement.

Helmet diving is a bewilderingly bonkers thing for an aquaphobe to try.

Scared of water? Try this

Lynne Truss puts on a glass helmet, a nasal strip and a brave face and braces herself to wander the seabed around Bermuda

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BERMUDA FACT FILE

■ Lynne Truss travelled with Bermuda Tourism and Prestige Holidays. She stayed at Ariel Sands, where a week's B&B starts at £1,212 per person in October, and £930 per person from November 1 to December 12 with Prestige (01425 481400). The price includes flights and transfers.

Other operators featuring cottage holidays include Cadogan (01703 332551) and Mainstreet USA (0990 526900).

British Airways (0345 222111)

has three flights a week from Gatwick and has World

Offers from £299 for October and

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■ Flights are also available

via New York with American

Airlines (0181-572 5555) and

Continental (0800 776464); via

Boston with American and

with Delta (0800 414767); via

Toronto with Air Canada (0900

247226).

■ On Bermuda, helmet

diving is offered by Bermuda Bell

Diving (001 441 292 4434) and

Greg Hartley's Under Sea

Adventure (041 234 2861). The

former charges adult £44 (£27.50)

and child £33 (£20.50); the latter charges £49 (£30) and £36 (£22.50). The whole experience

takes three hours, including

training and a dive lasting

about half an hour.

■ Tips: The nervous should

pack Breathe Right nasal strips.

■ Further information:

Bermuda Tourism (0171-771 7000)

has a guide on where to dive

and other information.

■ Reading: *Insight Guide to*

Bermuda (£12.99). The same

company also has a *Pocket*

Guide to Bermuda (£5.99), *Lonely*

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US 2 miles

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North Atlantic Ocean

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Islands of dreams: a jetty runs from one of the 1,000 Maldives islands out onto a coral reef. Only 70 of the islands house resorts and a tourism policy restricts development

Castaway among the coral

For Elizabeth Jane Howard, the Maldives brought to life childhood fantasies of being shipwrecked, but without any of the discomforts

Our first sight of the Maldives was from the aeroplane early in the morning. More than 1,000 coral islands are strung vertically across the equator, west of Sri Lanka, in the Indian Ocean, and from above they appeared as dark marks rimmed with palest cream and encircled by a wide expanse of aquamarine water set in an inky sea.

As we descended, these colours became clearer, the centres composed of rich greens; the cream sand dazzled, and the aquamarine lagoons became translucent, a rim of lacy white delineating the reefs that separated the lagoons from the deep blue water.

Here were the coral islands that had so enlivened my childhood, looking, from the sky, exactly as I had imagined them when I had read all those books about being castaways and had so longed to be shipwrecked. Far from being wrecked, however, we were to visit two islands that contrive to make their visitors feel like pampered castaways.

Our first hotel was the Soneva Fushi on Kunfun-



From the air, the coral islands appear as lacy rims of white

large open dining room — it was also possible to eat outside. To reach it we walked along a sandy path still warm from the sun. The first evening there was a barbecue which turned out to be the most successful cooking we experienced at Soneva Fushi. Much

of the food was unremarkable, but everything had to be blown or shipped in — mostly from a distance. There was a bar near the dining room where you could drink or play chess or backgammon; you could also hire videos if you were mad enough to feel like a movie star.

We felt that simply being in a place that was so beautiful and so different used up all our time. Sunsets were voluptuous and operatic; the juicy cries of fruit bats occurred at all hours, and little geckos came out when lamps were lit to tidy up the insects. There was the occasional mosquito, but there was all the right apparatus for keeping them at bay and we were not bitten at all, although at the cost of no reading in bed. There were no flies on the island; it took a day or two to realise how enormously this contributed to our peace and comfort.

The island had its own desalination plant and there seemed to be no shortage of water, hot or cold. There was excellent massage available, both Swedish and shiatsu. There were excursions to other islands and all kinds of watersports. We went on one outing that offered excellent snorkelling, and were joined by a cheerful gang of stingrays the size of occasional tables.

In the evenings, by the restaurant, black-and-white rabbits cavorted rather self-consciously and toyed with pieces of bread or lettuce. We were looked after — extremely well — by a host of small graceful men: Maldivian, Sri Lankan and Bangladeshi.

Our second week was on Vabbifaru, a much smaller island about 20 minutes from Male' by speedboat. Here was one of the Banyan Tree hotels and again the separate thatched huts containing a large bedroom and bathroom. These were set a few yards from the sea and had verandas, with the rest of the house walled off so that everyone had a private garden.

This was a well-run hotel, and the food was much better than it had been in Soneva Fushi: although the ingredients were not very different, they were better prepared. Barbecues and breakfasts were on a par with those at Soneva Fushi, but lunch and dinner was infinitely more enjoyable. Mineral water was free — another bonus since we needed a great deal of it.

The days slipped by in a kind of timeless slow motion: often we felt that we had been on a coral island for ever — sometimes we felt that we had hardly arrived. My daughter Nicola went diving every day but otherwise we made no plans, did not want excursions, were content to become familiar with the sea bed round the island.

One area was covered with sea cucumbers, creatures that look like gigantic fat caterpillars, but if you picked one up it was as light as if it had been made of papier-mâché. Beyond them were the coral gardens where a cloud of humbug damselfish fed — beautiful little fish with vertical blue and black stripes. Every evening at six a gang of stingrays sped in to be fed by one of the gardeners. If you stood in the water they would nudge and bump you for food. When I was a child I had a notebook in which major experiences were recorded: "Wore

puttees"; "rode an elephant" — that kind of thing. "Bumped by stingrays" would have fitted nicely into that.

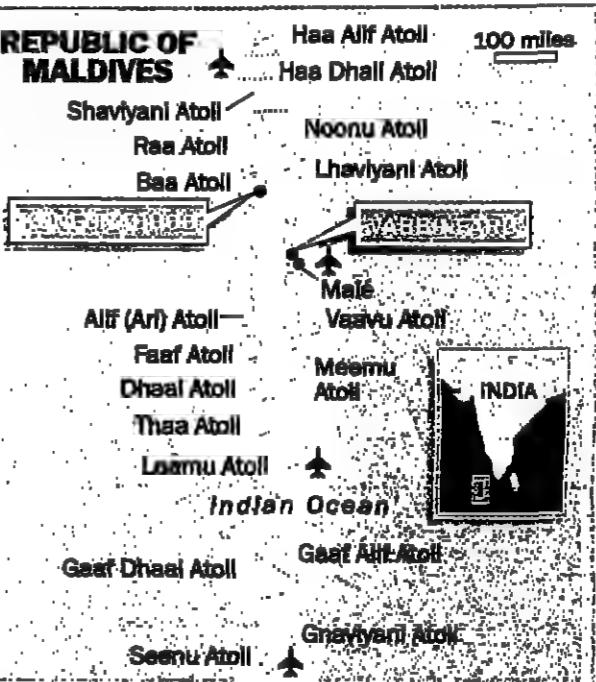
But what I shall remember most, what really makes me long to return to the Indian Ocean, is the memory of sitting on the verandah simply watching the vast amazing sky: vivid with sunrise, bleached to creamy blues at mudday, and then lightly furnished with clouds that were became molten as the sun fell — with the speed of a bounced ball — beyond the horizon, beginning a darkness from which stars started out like diamonds. Every day these things happened, but never quite the same. We did not have time to get used to that spectrum of changing light: I shall have to return.

• Elizabeth Jane Howard travelled with Elegant Resorts (01344 897888), which specialises in tailor-made holidays. Seven nights at the Banyan Tree costs from £1,505 per person, full board. Seven nights at Soneva Fushi costs from £1,255 per person, B&B, including return flights from London via Dubai with Emirates and inter-island transfers.

• Emirates (0171-808 0808) offers four flights a week to Male' from Gatwick, Heathrow and Manchester, via Dubai. • Reading Guide to Maldives by Royston Ellis (Bradt, £11.95); Maldives (Lonely Planet, £3.99).

• Dull but essential: No visa for stays of under 30 days. Departure tax \$10. No jobs required.

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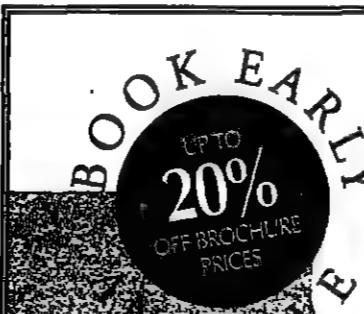
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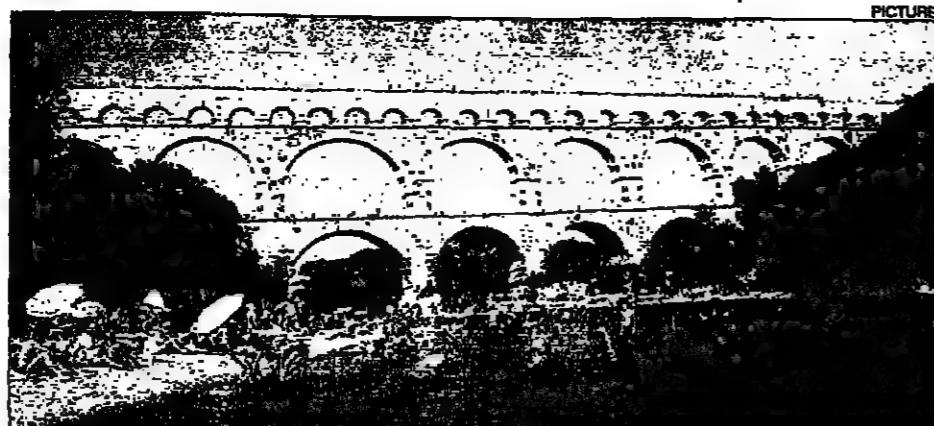
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WEEKEND · SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27 1997

Gareth Huw Davies steps back 2,000 years on a drive through Languedoc Roussillon, southern France

But the Romans got here first



The Pont du Gard, with its three great lines of arches, is a wonder of antiquity

We took the high road into Languedoc Roussillon over an elbow of the Massif Central. If there must be new roads through sensational countryside, then let them soar and swoop as excitingly as this one. We were as high as Snowdon. My children, Laura, 15, and 13-year-old Tim, the back seat navigators, rattled off regular roadside altitude checks.

Too late we spotted the *aire* — that ubiquitous roadside leg-stretching site — where we should have stopped, for each parking spot was shaded by a towering new stone megolith, erected by the local authorities in imitation of a nearby neolithic site.

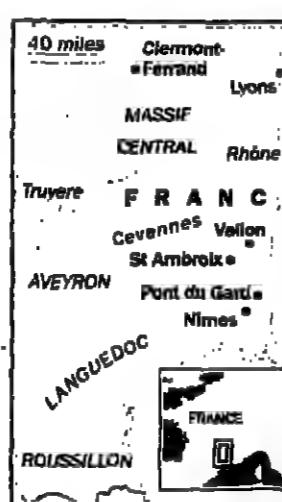
And all the while, on a more horizontal keel, the single-track railway north to Clermont-Ferrand shadowed us. We knew where it was heading, but imagine being an uninformed passenger on that line and, ten miles north, suddenly tightroping over the Truyère at Garabit on Elfe's wondrous iron viaduct.

The French region is a huge land of vineyards, the single-track railway north to Clermont-Ferrand shadowed us. We knew where it was heading, but imagine being an uninformed passenger on that line and, ten miles north, suddenly tightroping over the Truyère at Garabit on Elfe's wondrous iron viaduct.

The French region is a huge

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Languedoc Roussillon may lack the instant product identification in the British mind of, say, Provence, directly to the east. But it comes fully-fitted with the same seductive sensory effects of the Midi — cicadas in surround-sound as you drive, nightingales on the fringe of country campsites and the potent perfume of southern flora.



We followed the bends for half a day down the Tarn Gorges, then cut across Robert Louis Stevenson's donkey route in the Cévennes, the southern margin of wild, elevated central France, and popped out on the other side at St. Ambroix into the undeniably south. After 250 miles of wine-free France, we saw our first vineyard since the Loire.

Our gite was at St. Christol de Rodière, some 25 miles north of Avignon. From our eyrie perch we looked over grand cru vineyards across to the Rhône valley and the mistral-scorched Mt Ventoux.

In ideal conditions, we were within eyeshot of the Alps. One feature jarred — a nuclear power station sizzling on the edge of the Rhône. Our hostess made a virtue of it. "It's our barometer," she said, indicating the wind direction by the slant of its vapours.

Orange, just east of the Rhône in western Provence, has the best preserved theatre in the whole of the Roman world. Pont du Gard, with its three great lines of arches, is a wonder of antiquity. You can follow the course of the water in surviving off-cuts of the aqueduct to Uzès, — splendid Saturday

day market — 15 miles to the west. And on to elegant Nîmes. "Nîmes: La Rome Francaise" is still a standard tourist text on the bookstands. But we found a city recasting its received persona. Not only did the whole world think of Nîmes as exclusively Roman, so did the tourism college from which our guide graduated recently. Now the image is being updated and Nîmes is promoted thus: "2,000 years of Latin culture", and even "Nîmes, French Madrid", for its fairs and bullfighting.

You still need a copy of *I Claudius* by Robert Graves to fix the opening acts — the amphitheatre, the finest of its sort, built in Augustus's reign; the Maison Carrée, best preserved Roman temple, dedicated to his sons Caius and Lucius, murdered by the satanic Livia.

To mark the Middle Ages link, our guide unlocked a succession of massive wooden doors leading into the courtyards of *hôtels particuliers* — merchants' mansions. Behind these doors Protestant grandees hid their ostentation. Today these beautifully composed set pieces in stone — all the classical architectural flourishes under a winding staircase — are cool havens from the heat of the street outside, with their tinkling fountains and torrents of greenery tumbling off the parapets.

The treat for the family, after so much culture, was a meal out on the last evening. We tested and disproved yet again the theory that you cannot eat out in France for less than a fortune: on the contrary, the strength of the pound now leads to some good deals. The opinion from the back of the car was that we try Le Mas de Trescoivres, just east of Laval St. Roman, as a reward for planting so many insistent signposts among the vines.

It was a farmhouse kitchen with outdoor seats and any wine you liked so long as it was red and came in an unmarked bottle from the patron's own cave. Four courses cost us £65 for five.

A day later, we were heading home on the Aiglon to Calais motorway. Rattling along the banks of the Rhône, we passed the same power station we had seen from our gite, gently shimmering. Somewhere up there, among that dense greenery, our hostess was glancing down to take tomorrow's weather forecast.



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Architectural wonder: Aerial view of the Roman amphitheatre at Nîmes, built in the reign of Caesar Augustus

FACT FILE

■ Gareth Huw Davies travelled with the French Travel Board, Piccadilly, London W1V 0AL. (0891 244123, 50p a minute).

■ How to get there: Flights from Luton to Nice with easyjet (0990 292929) cost from £99. British Airways (0345 222111) Heathrow-Nice flights cost from £161. Hiring a two-door car from Hertz (0990 906900) and from £146 all-inclusive, from Avis (0990 900500).

■ Where to stay: Several companies specialise in French gîtes and most have late availability in October, when prices are lower than in the summer and the weather in southern France can still be good. VTB HOLIDAYS (01242 240340) offers more than 400 French gîtes. For example, a cottage with a private pool in the village of Rivière-de-Thénargues, six miles from St. Ambrux, costs £579 a week, £479 for an additional week, from October 4 until January. It sleeps six adults: the price includes accommodation, ferry crossing for a car and two passengers and travel insurance.

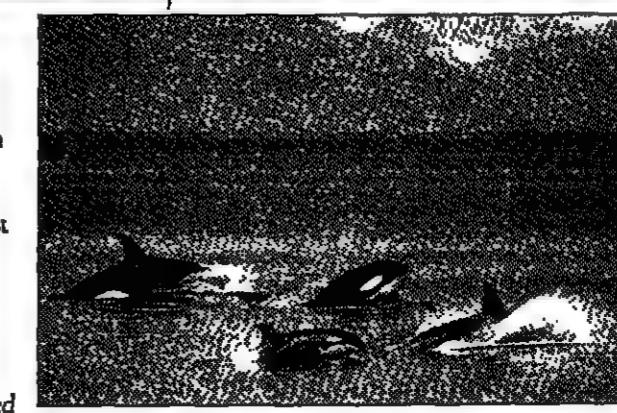
GITES DE FRANCE, offered through Brittany Ferries in the UK (0990 360360), has a gîte at Cuxac Cabardès, near Carcassonne in southern Languedoc. A week costs £438.88 per person based on eight sharing, including return ferry crossing for two cars with Brittany Ferries from Portsmouth to Calais.

THE COTTAGE CO. offers the Gîte d'Intégrité programme from October until May; weekend breaks at properties in Brittany, Normandy and the Loire Valley. Prices start at £43 per night per gîte, based on a minimum of two nights' stay, but (ir)respective of gîte size.

CHEZ NOUS TRAVEL (01484 682503) has a week in Agde in a house sleeping six for £300; or a week in a restored 800-year-old village house in Roquemur, sleeping six to nine, for £320, in October. Ferry crossings start at £105 for a car and five passengers.

■ Reading: *The South of France: Provence, Côte d'Azur and Languedoc-Roussillon*, from the Cadogan series (£14.99). *Provence, Languedoc and Côte d'Azur*, from the Independent Travellers series (Moorland, £8.99).

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THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London Heathrow to Vancouver with British Airways. Arrive in the afternoon and drive to the Georgian Court Hotel or similar for an overnight stay.

Day 2 Vancouver. Morning city excursion. In the afternoon embark SS Universe Explorer and sail.

Day 3 At sea. Cruising British Columbia's beautiful Inside Passage.

Day 4 Wrangell. Once ruled by Britain and Russia, Wrangell is one of the oldest and most historical towns in Alaska.

Day 5 Juneau, the capital of Alaska is accessible only by sea or air. Walk the winding streets, shop, visit the excellent State Museum and Governor's Mansion.

Day 6 Skagway. Navigate the Lynn Canal viewing mountain ranges, hanging glaciers and wildlife. In Skagway enjoy the 1890's Gold Rush spirit.

Day 7 Glacier Bay. This morning we will sail into Glacier Bay, a summer haunt of the humpback whales. Cruise along the West Arm close to tiny islands where puffins and guillemots congregate, and passing cliffs where kittiwakes roost.

Day 8 Cruising the Gulf of Alaska. The scenery is dramatic and awe inspiring.

Day 9 Seward. This ice free port is situated on the Kenai Peninsula. The area is immensely rich in wildlife and the nearby national park is a vast area of 670,000 acres, where some of the world's largest tide-water glaciers can be found.

Day 10 Valdez. After a morning cruising call into the port of Valdez, a lovely spot where snow-capped peaks form a wonderful backdrop to green meadows.

Day 11 Cruising the Yakutat Bay. In

1986 Hubbard Glacier went through a surge cycle, advancing by a mere 130 feet a day. Eventually an

ice dam formed and burst with enormous power. Today we will cruise past this awe inspiring site and enjoy time cruising in the sheltered waters tumbling out for sea lions.

Day 12 Sitka. Once the capital of Tsarist Russia in the New World, Sitka was the site of the historic transfer of Alaska to the United States. Day 13 Ketchikan, Alaska's first city and the salmon capital of the world. Clinging to the side of Deer Mountain, Ketchikan is a colourful port of call.

Day 14 At sea.

Day 15 Victoria. Situated on Vancouver Island, Victoria is a delightful city well known for its British atmosphere. One of the finest botanical gardens in the world can be found here.

Day 16 Vancouver to London (Heathrow). Disembark after breakfast and transfer to Georgian Court Hotel or similar where day use rooms have been reserved.

Remainder of day at leisure until transfer to the airport in time for the late evening British Airways to London.

Day 17 London (Heathrow). Arrive in the

morning.

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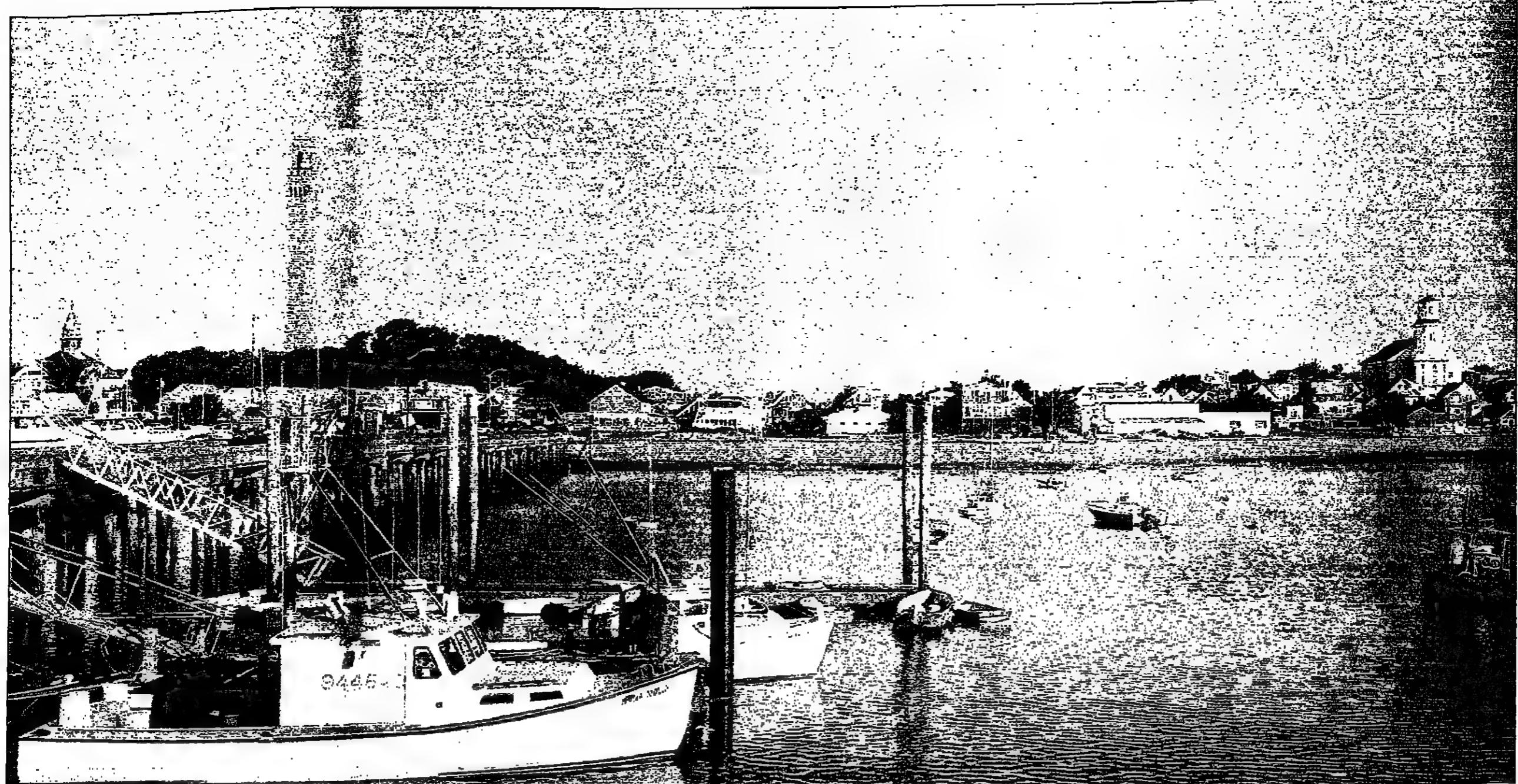
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Peter Stothard on leopardskin loincloths and other theatrical memorabilia at the tip of Cape Cod

GENE PEACH



Provincetown, at the tip of America's most fashionable Cape, has been a tourist resort since the 1920s when Eugene O'Neill wrote his early plays here. It is a magnet for artists, writers, and the wealthy gay community

Long day's journey into the bay

Eugene O'Neill had his good days and his bad days while he was making his name as the father of American theatre in Provincetown, Cape Cod. Even on a good day, when his work was going well and he was partying naked except for a leopardskin loincloth and an orange wig,

he could thrash out at over-inquisitive journalists and consign his long-suffering wife to the gutter. On a bad day his alcoholic rages were not even fit to be research work for *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, the posthumous masterpiece on which his reputation rests. He would sit on the sand-dunes, urinating into

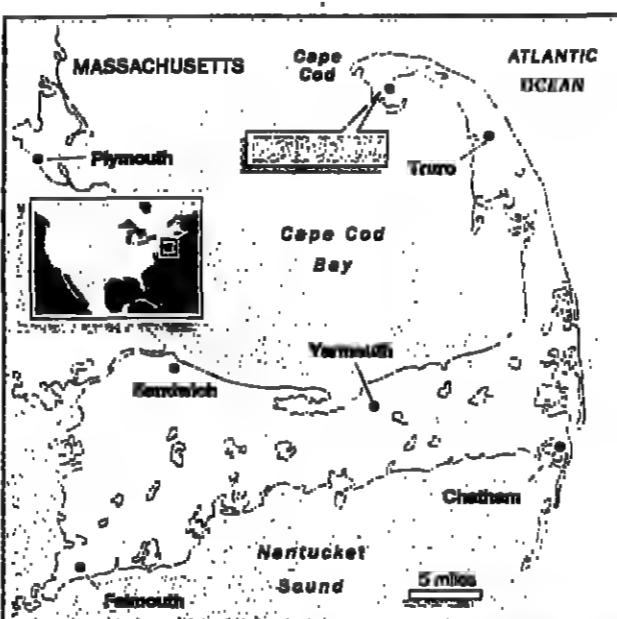
half-full prohibition-priced whisky bottles and drinking the contents as cocktails.

Provincetowners today, like most people with famous sons, prefer to remember the best parts of the good days. Since the 1920s they have created a prosperous tourist resort at the tip of America's most fashionable Cape and made it a magnet for artists, writers, the wealthy local gay communities as well as for Europeans seeking the place where New World drama first threw off the chains of the old.

If O'Neill were to return today to the little town where he wrote his early plays, he would find men in loincloths and wigs cavorting every night of the week. He might note with disquiet that men and women in gay-pride T-shirts have taken many of the places left by his 1920s team of wife-swappers, bootleggers and macho-bohemians. But the playwright would still find his works being performed here, in the same sort of grey clapboard wharf-buildings, before small but no-less-approving crowds.

The only trouble for the local hero would come if he were to try to replay some of his bad times. Provincetown today is a place where those who prize self-expression also know how to behave. Raised voices are very much not the thing. Etiquette is a street art. Manicured gardening — no more than seven convolvulus blooms per drainpipe — is the grandest of arts. Dogs have to be leashed or pugs and wear at least a thousand dollars' worth of ethnic jewellery.

Watercolour is the painter's medium of choice. When seven people eating a \$250 dinner order a fourth bottle of wine it is time for the manager to sound a none-too-subtle claxon. Even running in the



streets seems somehow frowned upon — unless it is athletic running, ideally by groups in neatly-matched turquoise boxer shorts.

The theatre where O'Neill's plays were performed has long been lost to the waves of Provincetown bay. The Provincetown Players were nothing if not a fissionary and itinerant crowd: the idea of any permanent memorial would have seemed to them absurd. But the sense of theatre remains strong.

The centre of the town is built of short wharfs which jut into the sea. Some have collapsed for ever, while others have been converted into accommodation for visitors. The scenery for the players was kept not above the stage (too precarious) or at the side (no room) but under the boards of the piers themselves, barely scraping the water surface at high tide. The

Provincetown: artists' mecca

performance areas were cramped and intimate — just like the jumbles of rooms that are now so much sought after for let. In August the "No Vacancy" signs along Commercial Street and Bradford (the two thoroughfares that mark out the town) are even more prevalent than the plovers and sandpipers that play along the beaches.

Visitors to Provincetown who are searching for a more serious slice of American history may be disappointed. A hotel parking-lot on the edge of town is the site where the

Pilgrim Fathers first landed the *Mayflower* in America. What they found was a barren sandbar and they did not stay long before leaving for their first settlement at Plymouth across the bay.

Modern tourists, therefore, who want to recreate the lives of the Puritan settlers, eat old world food and talk to actors in 17th century English can do so further down the Cape at the popular Pilgrim Plantation, where they will find a mass of educational attractions, combining obsessive period detail with compulsory political correctness about native Americans.

In Provincetown there is a tall *Mayflower* Memorial, modelled earlier this century on a tower in Siena, but in every other respect, players are preferred to Puritans. This is a self-consciously artistic community — even when its population rises from 5,000 to 50,000 in the summer. The main bookstore, which feminist pilgrims claim may once have been the home of Sylvia Plath, contains shelves of literary first editions where normally there might be horoscopes and greeting cards.

The gossip is of Norman Mailer and Susan Sontag. The restaurants have to be as competitive in their salad arrangements as any in Manhattan. Holidaying New York painters come here, and can be just the slightest bit patronising about the local artists who sell sea-and-clapboard watercolours around the east end galleries. Even the chambermaid in your wharf is likely to be working on a reportorial novel: *From Dust To Dust. Observations from the Bed-Changing Business*.

There is still, however, a lively strain of old Englishness on this end zone of Cape Cod.

vast by comparison and criss-crossed by miles of bicycle tracks.

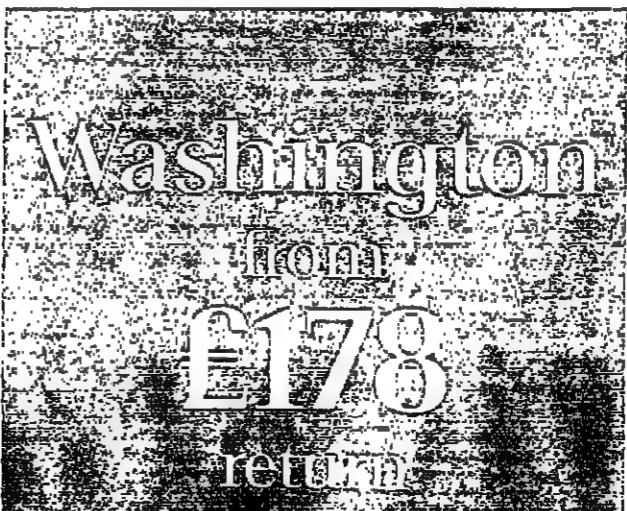
At the lowest of low tides almost the whole of Provincetown Bay is empty of sea and there are acres of sand and starfish stretching over to the lighthouse point, a place for expensive dogs to play baseball and their owners to build their bodies, dream of their future theatrical triumphs, or at least decide on their next fine-dining experience.

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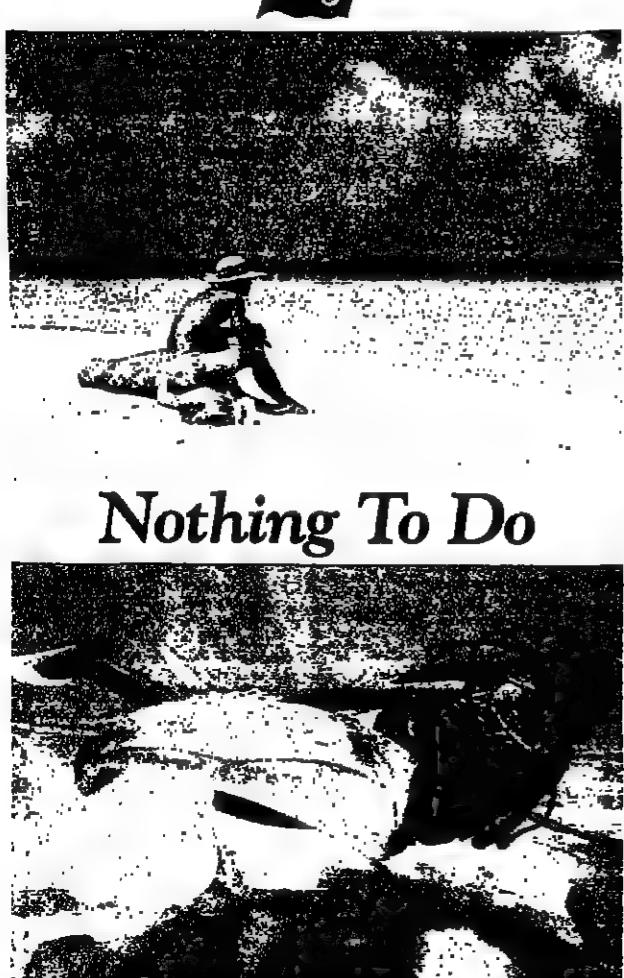
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■ Getting there: It is easiest to travel to Provincetown via Boston. Virgin Atlantic (01293 747747) has special fares to Boston from £198, plus £35 taxes, for travel by December 12 (if booked by October 1). British Airways (0345 222111) has a World Offer price to Boston from £199 plus taxes, for travel between October 1-31. Prices then drop to £179 until December 12. To obtain these prices, tickets must be purchased by October 1.

It is a two and a half hour drive from Boston to Provincetown, or you can fly with Cape Air (001 508 771 6944). Prices start at £142 (£90) return for a seven-day advance purchase ticket.

■ Virgin Holidays (01293 61781) has fly-drive holidays to New England from £499 per person (£399 after October 15), including flights and car hire. Taxes and insurance add between £21-£25 a day.

■ Osprey Holidays (0151-557 1559) has fly-drive holidays to Boston in October from £445 per person. The company will feature Provincetown in its 1998 brochure, to be published in December.

■ Where to stay: New England Country Homes (01798 869020) has properties close to

Provincetown. For example, in Truro, eight miles away, a cottage for four for two weeks until October 25 costs £1,176 per person, including flights, car hire, insurance and a night outside Boston.

■ Accommodation in Provincetown is divided between small hotels and cottage/apartment complexes. All

are small, and parking nearby may be difficult, so check when booking. It is advisable to book well in advance for next summer. A list of accommodation is available from the Provincetown Chamber of Commerce (Box 1017), Provincetown, MA 02657 (001 508 487 3424).

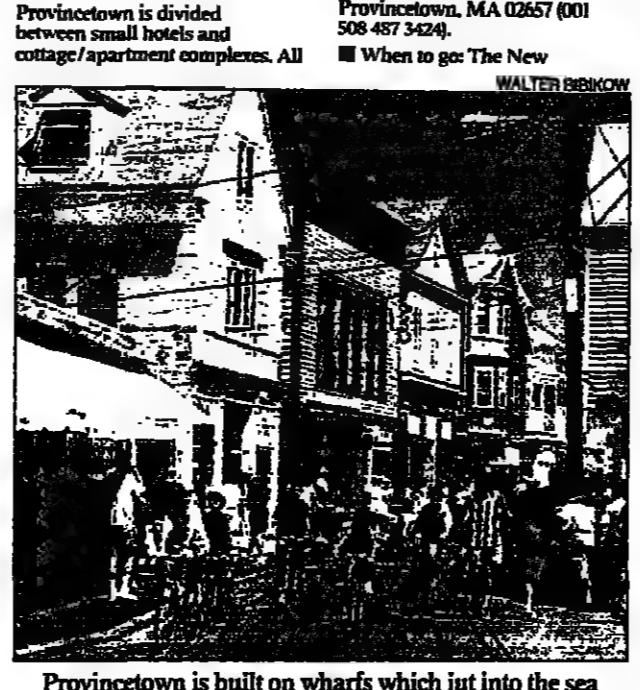
■ When to go: The New

England Fall, when the leaves turn and the region is ablaze with gold and russet colours, starts around now and peaks over the next two or three weeks. Better colours can be seen the further north you go.

■ Further information: The older houses were floated to their current sites from the outer sandbank in the 19th century. Look for blue-wave plaques.

Provincetown Repertory Theatre (001 508 487 0600), Provincetown Art Association (001 508 487 1750).

■ Reading: Architectural guide and other information in *Provincetown Guide* from Shank Painter publishing, 650 Commercial St, Provincetown, MA 02657 (001 508 487 9169), *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, by Eugene O'Neill (Nick Hern Books, £6.99).



Provincetown is built on wharfs which jut into the sea

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When the Boeing gets tough . . .

Never mind
trainspotting,
planespotting
is best, says
Oliver Bennett

A Virgin Atlantic Boeing 747 taxies out to the runway. It is a routine occurrence to most of us, at best bearing a mere frisson of fear, excitement and expectation.

But to the small crowd of aeroplane spotters who keep a vigil at the Skyview platform above Gatwick Airport's South Terminal, it is a moment of high arousal. Up leaps this fraternity of flying fanatics to their feet with their one-way radios, binoculars and cameras swinging. They rush to the balcony where they look, listen, jot notes. The plane takes off in a whoosh of kerosene, and the spotters visibly relax until the next major departure or arrival.

Planespotting is an increasingly popular pastime. On the weekday morning when I visited Skyview, there were 30 or more spotters, and many more arrive at weekends.

We all know about trainspotting — the very term has become a metaphor for any pastime that requires obsessive scrutiny and attention to detail, be it record-collecting or drug abuse. Unfairly perhaps, it invites trendy snark. But the spotting of aeroplanes — surely that is a different matter: more global and glamorous, like whale-watching as opposed to bird-watching?

Aficionados do not think so: they tend to spot both trains and planes and see no hierarchical difference between the two. And they are sensitive to criticism: several spotters I approached at Skyview refused to talk, possibly suspecting that fun was going to be poked at them. Perish the thought.

Skyview has a cafe, a bookshop, a few Internet terminals, an historic aircraft exhibit, a flight simulator and a little cinema. This package costs £4.50 for adults, but planespotters can get roof access without the trimmings for just £1.50, and they tend to stay all day. So what drives these monomaniacs? On a breezy, bright autumn day at

Planespotters on the Skyview balcony at Gatwick. Dedication is required. "The ultimate object is to see every passenger aircraft built, and as you can never complete this task, you will always be thwarted"

that's coming," explains Mr Wright. "I've picked up one or two pilots lost in bad weather, but they seem to get here eventually." It is entirely legal, he informs me, as it is only one-way and does not interfere with signals. "Lucky" spotters can hear emergencies happen in real-time, though these are mercifully few. An earnest spotter also needs binoculars or telescope, a notebook and — crucially — one of the great texts, such as *Airlines*, an exhaustive list of airliner stocks published by The Aviation Hobby Shop. For it seems that planespotting is driven less by the need to celebrate the awesome power and aesthetic of aerodynamic technology, and more by a clerical mission to log aeroplanes.

"There is a beauty in seeing big airplanes land and take off. Every plane has its own character," he insists. "They are like people in that respect." Yes, as far as spotters are concerned, planes are people too. Planespotters often have a radio, with which they can listen to air traffic control, usually through an earpiece. "You can hear everything

aircraft and where they go." Any unusual carrier has a planespotter reaching for his binoculars. This particular morning, Mr Wright had spied Royal Nepal Airlines, odd little airlines from Kazakhstan and Turkey, and a couple of new charters. British Airways' new livery was also exciting a gang of spotters. "We like older planes, as you won't see them much longer," says Mr Wright. "To see a Boeing 707 at Heathrow is of major interest."

Gatwick, the key charter airport, has unexpected treasures such as charters carrying footballers and orchestras: to identify these, the grapevine goes into action so spotters know what is happening when planes appear off-timetable. And new products get them going. The Boeing 777 is now boringly established, and the spotters are more excited by the Airbus 340, one of the newest in the air.

Spotters also seem to spend their days off in pursuit of planes. Wright, who claims to be able to identify helicopters by sound, lives near Heathrow and picks up on air traffic control from home. Indeed, the Wright family are looking for a new house. "When I view a property, I ask 'Is there any aircraft traffic coming over?'

Says Wright. "The estate agents play it down. I don't tell them that I prefer it if there are planes overhead."

Much of planespotting's appeal is down to the completist drive of the collector. The idea is to see all the planes in a particular fleet," attests Stan Fletcher, a retired railwayman from Maidenhead, who had come to Skyview for the day with two friends. "In fact, the ultimate object is to see every passenger aircraft built, and as you can never quite complete this task, you will always be thwarted." It is precisely that sense of having an infinite task that drives the spotters,



Radios, cameras and binoculars are essential kit

says Mr Fletcher, who adds that they are also kept on their toes by the increasing inventiveness of the aviation industry, which is constantly developing new types of planes.

The John Menzies shop at Skyview is dedicated to planespotters' needs, with model kits, viewing and listening equipment, as well as videos like the *Flight in Cockpit* series, which gives the viewer a pilot's eye view, and a similarly aviation-obsessed bookshelf. This includes slightly macabre titles such as *Wreckchasing*, *Black Box*, *Crashes and Crash Sites* and

Emergency — Crisis on the Flight Deck — books hardly likely to be found in the shops down in the terminal.

These do not sell quite as well as the books of lists such as *Commercial Aircraft and Jane's Airport Recognition Guide*, but the market seems to be thriving. "Money is no object for some of these people," says manager Simon Hussey, who says the shop is constantly "chock-a-block" with spotters who often spend over £30 on a book.

Like many of us, Hussey is baffled at the zealosity with which planespotters perform what looks awfully like unpaid catalogue work. "I said to one, what do you do with the numbers?" he recalls. "What pleasure do you get out of it?" No satisfying answer came. But planespotting is a hobby that aspires to be a profession — tellingly, Fletcher refers to

his fellow spotters as "colleagues" — and many planespotters either work in aviation or the railways.

There is an addictive quality to it, which Mr Fletcher's friend Chris Church, a personnel manager from Maidenhead, is quick to acknowledge. "It's my fix," he says. "The people at work take the mickey out of me something rotten. But I find it relaxing, something to do." And it should be said that there is something meditative and fraternal about planespotting, despite a small internecine rivalry between telescope and binocular users, of which Mr Church and Mr Fletcher are illustrations. "I prefer telescopes," says Mr Church, standing at the balcony like a pastiche Admiral Nelson surveying his frigates. Mr Fletcher, a binocular man: "Can't get on with them."

Most spotters are men, but at Skyview there are a few women around. Mike and Sylvia Fullylove had travelled down from Watford, where they are fortunate enough to live beneath the West Drayton Holding Pattern. Was Sylvia there under duress? "It's a day out, and I like aeroplanes," she pleads. But planespotting is clearly Mr Fullylove's province. For it was he that held all the looking, listening and recording kit. "It bit me as a kid," says his retired print worker. "I was in the RAF and became interested in planes. It becomes a habit, but it winds you down. It's good for stress."

And so, then comes the unmistakable noise of an approaching jet and there is no time to journey further into the planespotting soul. A new Canadian charter plane has been spotted, and the denizens of Skyview leap to their feet, lenses trained into the haze.

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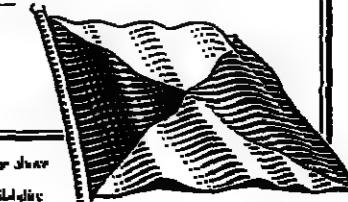
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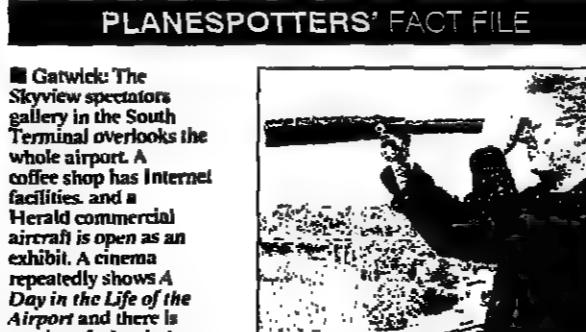
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Oliver Bennett goes skywatching

Gatwick: The spectators gallery in the South Terminal overlooks the whole airport. A coffee shop has Internet facilities, and a Herald commercial aircraft is open as an exhibit. A cinema repeatedly shows *A Day in the Life of the Airport* and there is an aerial simulation ride (one person). £2. Gallery admission £1.50 adults, children 75p. All facilities, including simulator: £4.50. £3 children. A family ticket (two adults, two children) costs £10. Open daily from 9am-5pm.

Heathrow: The spectators gallery is on top of Terminal 2 — no lift, 70 stairs. One raised area overlooks an aircraft parking cul de sac but for Heathrow's 50th anniversary last year, another platform was opened with "a really cracking view," said a spokeswoman. Facilities are a small cafe — The Take-Off — and an aviation hobby shop, called Mach 3, open for three years and selling "everything you need". At weekends, during school holidays and for special aircraft days, over 1,000 people a day can visit. An average is 300 daily. Admission free open daily from dawn to dusk. The separate Visitor's Centre on Bath Road, which is also free, has a viewing area for take-offs and landings. Open daily.

Manchester: Due to development work, the viewing terrace has been closed indefinitely. The Aviation Viewing Park is still open, an area near the runway, off the M6 (junction 8) designated for watching take-offs and landings. Admission: £1.50 for car and driver (£50 additional passenger) — £2.50 at weekends. Cafe, toilets and aviation shop. Admission free.

Edinburgh: The spectators gallery is closed due to redevelopment of the terminal. Is due to re-open "at some stage" — possibly within a year.

Reading: Mach 3 (0181-897 2747) publishes *World Airline Registrations* (£7.95), available from its Heathrow viewing shop. The Aviation Hobby Shop (01895 442123) publishes *Airlines* (£8.95).

*We have no liability for any errors or omissions in this advertisement which are available for the short distances. Over 500 miles, the fare for the grade and cruise will remain the same. Subject to availability. We reserve the right to decline any bookings before November 1997. Subject to availability.

Living in the past with a house of spirits

Get back to
Budapest

Francis Gilbert picks up a new guide to London's lesser-known museums and finds some of the most atmospheric houses

DENNIS SEVERS - HOUSE

I discovered Dennis Severs House one Sunday in midsummer. I tramped off the cobbled street, the trains from Liverpool Street Station rattling in the distance, and found myself tiptoeing into a mystical, cool domain.

A servant girl can be heard working upstairs, someone on horseback clip-clops nearby, the delicious aroma of roast lamb and mint sauce wafts from the kitchen downstairs, and the wispy smoke from tallow candles lures you into the front room.

As you stare in astonishment at the rock sugar candy, Severs creeps up and explains the overturned clay pipe, overflowing fruit bowl and powdered wig on the varnished table: "You are now in the home of the Jervises, a family of master silk weavers of Huguenot descent. Can you feel their spirits?"

It is the beginning of an astonishing tour of a Georgian household. You are taken down to the dimly-lit kitchen where Severs tells you of the ambitious Mrs Jervis, who desperately wants her daughter to marry well.

Upstairs, one of the rooms is a perfect recreation of one painting from Hogarth's *The Rake's Progress*, with its overturned chairs, long clay pipes, empty punch bowl and drained glasses of wine on the table. A reproduction of the



An elaborate door knocker

painting hangs over the mantelpiece, mirroring the room. My favourite space is the top floor. Whereas the rest of the house is opulent, here the rooms are poverty-stricken: cobwebs, sagging walls, chairs caked in wax.

Severs explains that it is where the servants used to live, condemned to weave the silk garments through the day and night in sweat-shop conditions for their masters down below. The Huguenots employed slave labour to fund their lavish lifestyle.

"You are like Scrooge when you travel through this house: spirits visit you and often you will undergo some kind of rebirth," said Severs.

A word of warning, though.



Dennis Severs has lived in Georgian style for 17 years. "You are now in the home of the Jervises, a family of master silk weavers of Huguenot descent. Can you feel their spirits?"

If you are looking for authenticity, you will not find it at Dennis Severs' House. He has created a past culled from black and white movies, sepia photographs, Victorian literature, and his own unique reading of East End history.

Practically nothing in the house is antique — but the life he lives there is genuine — the urine in the chamber pots is not left there for effect.

Severs, an American, has lived here for 17 years. "It's my passion," he said. "I grew up

in California, where everyone buys happiness. But this is modern art — it's almost spiritual."

• Dennis Severs' House, 18 Folgate Street, Spitalfields, London E1 (0171-547 4013). Open on the first Sunday and Monday of each

month. Sunday 2pm-5pm. £7; Monday after dark for the Silent Night hour (£10, booking essential). Tube: Liverpool Street.

• All three museums are featured in *Little-Known Museums In and Around London*, by Rachel Kaplan, published on Monday by Abrams at £13.95.

THE GEFFRYE MUSEUM

Christmas time. A weary traveller, grateful to escape the brutalist architecture and cacophony of the Kingsland Road in East London, stumbles upon a hidden Eden. A bewigged statue of an imposing nobleman, his shoulders garlanded with snow, gazes on a large peaceful garden with wrought iron gates. I am thrust back into the 18th century.

Robert Geffrye, twice created Master of the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers, and a Lord Mayor of London, is ensconced in a niche which is part of the 14 terraced almshouses and a chapel which he built in 1715. The austere, beautiful buildings served as retirement homes for pensioners and widows for almost 200 years until the early 20th century, when the Arts and Crafts Movement saved them from demolition and set up the Geffrye Museum in 1914.

There is something very welcoming about the Geffrye. Admission is free and the

attendants are relaxed and friendly. In summer you can sit in the herb garden, and you can relax in the cafe or reading room all year round.

It is the only museum in Britain to specialise in the history of domestic interiors, displaying a collection of English furniture and decorative arts in a series of period rooms from 1600 to 1950. That winter's afternoon I was lured into a magical evocation of Christmas Past: the rooms sparkled with festive decoration. As I immersed myself in the customs, rituals and adornments once common in English homes, 400 years of Christmas traditions came to life.

The first port of call is an Elizabethan drawing room, all heavy oak and rough woolen textiles: a creepy rocking cradle with an eye carved on its hood to ward off evil spirits suggests visions of a malign and gothic world. The Stuart Period room contains the most valuable item in the museum: an extraordinary ebony cabinet inlaid with exotic woods and ivory. The Queen Anne room shows an increasing desire for luxury and Eastern motifs with furniture japanned to imitate oriental lacquer. The Regency room is

the staff's favourite. It is elegant, airy and spacious, beautifully decorated with blue and white stencilled wallpaper, white marble fireplace, carved beech and satin wood harp, a zebra-wood brass-inlaid card table and ornate silver tea set. Schoolchildren love the Victorian room, with its knick-knacks, brightly coloured curtains, Davenport writing desk, glass-domed shell ornaments, sewing box and elaborate flowers.

Christine Lalumia, the museum's deputy director, says that a number of older visitors become emotional about the 1930-40 room. The Blitz is poignantly evoked with crackling wartime songs on the Bakelite radio. A game of "Sorry" is spread out in front of chunky upholstered chairs. A biscuit tin is about the only luxury you will find here.

• Geffrye Museum, Kingsland Road, London E2 (0171-539 9933). Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am-5pm; Sundays and Bank Holidays 2pm-5pm. Underground: Liverpool Street Station, then Bus 22A, 22B or 149 from Bishopsgate. Best times to visit: weekday afternoons. Worst times: weekday mornings (when school parties are visiting) and Sunday afternoon. Admission free.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 30

LOKI

(c) Loki was the bad boy of the Norse Gods. He saved them from paying the builder of the wall around Asgard. He turned himself into a mare and so excited the builder's horse, Svadilfare, that the work was not completed on time. RUNOUT

(c) The recovery from recoil. In automatic weapons such as the Bofors, this was used to actuate the mechanism of loading and firing the next round.

CONIC SECTIONS

(a) Conic sections are the figures obtained by plane sections of a double right-circular cone. Depending on the angle, the sections are (1) a pair of straight lines; (2) a circle; (3) an ellipse; (4) a parabola; and (5) a hyperbola.

HIPPOCAMPUS

(c) Seahorses swim, unlike most fish, by passing waves along the dorsal fins.

WORD-COVER

THE DICKENS MUSEUM



Dickens' vital presence

would have looked in Dickens' time. But with its rosewood furniture and large table, it is peculiarly ordinary — a reminder that for all his wild imagination, Dickens hankered after middle-class respectability.

Most visitors are entranced by R.W. Buss's painting *Dickens's Dream*, where many characters from his novels are depicted.

The Deputy Curator's favourite exhibits are two recently acquired portraits of young Charles and his wife by Samuel Laurence which seem to bring his vital presence into the room.

• Dickens House Museum, 48 Doughty Street, London WC1N (0171-405 2127). Open Monday to Saturday 10am-5pm. Tube: Russell Square, Farringdon or Holborn. Best times to visit: weekday mornings (when school parties are visiting) and Sunday afternoon. Admission £3.50 adults, £2.50 students, £1.50 children.

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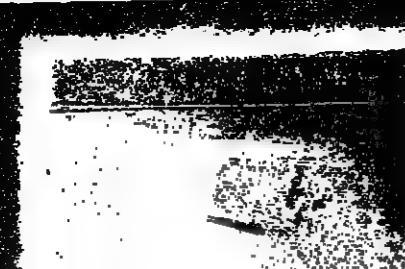
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Where Harry met Owain

In Worcestershire, David Blundell walks where an English king faced a warring Welsh chieftain

The two things Worcestershire has in abundance are countryside and history — and Abberley is an ideal centre for exploring both on foot. For an easy afternoon's circular walk, drive to the village of Great Witney and set off from the car park near the school. Walk back up the main road, turning right just past the Hundred House Hotel, and follow the footpath up the slope of Abberley Hill.

At the top of Abberley Hill, pick up the Worcestershire Way (signposted with a pear motif). There are fine views of the Woodbury Hill, with the Malverns in the background and, in the distance, Bredon Hill.

The Abberley Hills command the surrounding countryside and it was on their crest that in 1405 Henry IV posted his army. Facing him, on Witney Hill, was Owain Glyndwr, with 10,000 Welshmen supported by a force of 12,000 French. After eight days the two sides settled for a draw, and Glyndwr withdrew into his Welsh fastness with his French backers.

Looking back towards Witney, you will see the ruins of Witney Court, one-time home of the Earl of Dudley. The house, abandoned in 1937 after a fire, was in its day one of the great houses of England. Queen Adelaide lived there in the mid-19th century, and it later became the epitome of Edwardian excess: at Christmas, it was the custom to hang

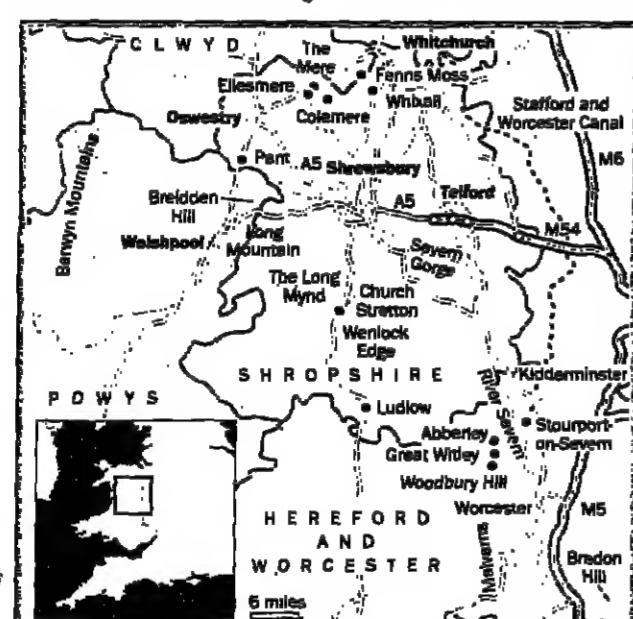
a tree in the great ballroom with jewellery, instead of fairy lights.

Next to the shell of the house is one of the country's finest (but least-known) baroque churches. St Michael and All Angels, which was restored after the fire, contains a stunning collection of paintings by the Italian artist Antonio Bellucci. The house and grounds, now under the care of English Heritage, and the church are open to the public.

Resume your walk, turning left and passing an Ordnance Survey Triangulation point. From here you can detour west down the hillside in the village of Abberley and its restored Norman church of St Michael's.

Climbing back to the crest of the hill, bear down through the trees from the trig point to meet the road (Wynnstays Way) and continue to a sign marked Public Footpath to Great Witney. Follow this narrow path until you reach a metalled road. Turn right towards the main road and then left towards your starting point.

Nearby is reputed to have stood the original gospel oak, in the shadow of which Augustine met a gathering of Welsh bishops to try to settle an agreed date for Easter. He apparently had no more success persuading the Celts with argument than did King Henry later with his knights, and he too abandoned the contest.



Stanley Slaughter enjoys a wander through the gentler side of Shropshire

The less remembered hills

Just past Telford on the A5, the road rises over a slight hill. For a moment, there is a sumptuous view of the county of Shropshire. Far to the northwest are the Berwyn Mountains, rising to 2,000ft. To the southwest are The Long Mynd and Wenlock Edge, and between them the twin peaks of Breidden Hill and Long Mountain.

But it is the Shropshire Plain that holds the eye. Spreading out 180 degrees around you, it is a vast patchwork of rolling green fields. It must rank as one of the great panoramas of England. Most visitors drive on, passing the historic town of Shrewsbury, past the delightful market town of Oswestry and on into the dramatic mountains of North Wales.

Those who do stop invariably turn south to the Blue Remembered Hills of A.E. Housman's *South Shropshire* and pretty towns like Ludlow and Church Stretton. Few visit the north of this large county, yet there is much there which deserves more than a second look.

Now the Shropshire Wildlife Trust, conscious of its precious inheritance, has set up 30 nature reserves throughout the county, the majority in the north. These reserves form a rich collection of wildlife and landscape that is not usually found in one small area.

The terrain of meres and mosses, which includes dramatic features like the Severn Gorge, were formed as the last ice Age came to an end about 15,000 years ago. As the ice retreated it gouged out hollows which later filled with water. Today many of those are the meres around Ellesmere, known as Shropshire's Lakeland. Where the land was softer, such as around Whixall and Fenns, peat mosses developed and became home to rare flora and fauna, such as Britain's largest spider, the Great Raft Spider.

In small ponds the spiders skim across the water, sometimes diving to seize their prey. Their black bodies marked by two broad yellow stripes. Despite the name, the spider is not that big, its abdomen smaller than a 20p piece, but it has a spider's typical long, spindly legs which make it look bigger.

To the west are Llanymynech Rocks, a dominating limestone outcrop which was quarried until the turn of the century. Below, in the village of Pant, the vast klin and some of the winding towers have been preserved. But the rocks have returned to



The dramatic Llanymynech Rocks

nature. High up the rock face are dozens of crows, jackdaws and pigeons and the sharp-eyed will also spot a pair of peregrine falcons. These large, grey birds, although plentiful in Wales, are among only ten known pairs in Shropshire.

Sadly the female has twice abandoned her nest this spring, leaving the eggs to the mercy of crows. The ground is covered with many varieties of orchids, including

FACT FILE

- Stanley Slaughter travelled with Shropshire Tourism, Long Lane, Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 8DU (01588 672678), which offers information on where to stay and places to visit.
- How to get there: There is a regular rail service from London Euston to Shrewsbury via Wolverhampton. A supersaver return, travelling after 9.30am any day except Friday, costs £34. Information on 0845 484950.
- Where to stay: Hawkstone Park Hotel, Weston-under-Redcastle, near Shrewsbury (0193 200611); from £55 a night. Pen-y-Dyffryn Country Hotel, Rhodycerous, near Oswestry (01691 653700); from £30 a night per person. B&B: Vyrnwy Bank, Llanymynech, near Oswestry (01691 830427); from £16 a night per person.
- Further information: Shropshire Wildlife Trust, 167 Frankwell, Shrewsbury SY3 8LG (01743 241691).

the beautiful, multi-coloured bee orchid, valerian and wild roses. But North Shropshire has a gentler side, notably among the lakes around Ellesmere. Many of the meres have well-marked paths around them for walkers to enjoy the profuse plant and wildlife.

The Mere, off the main road just outside Ellesmere, is the most popular, especially in April and May when, from the shore, you can see heron chicks on a mid-Mere island. But Colemere offers a bleaker and more isolated aspect and is home to some 80 species of birds, including finches, tits, swans and geese.

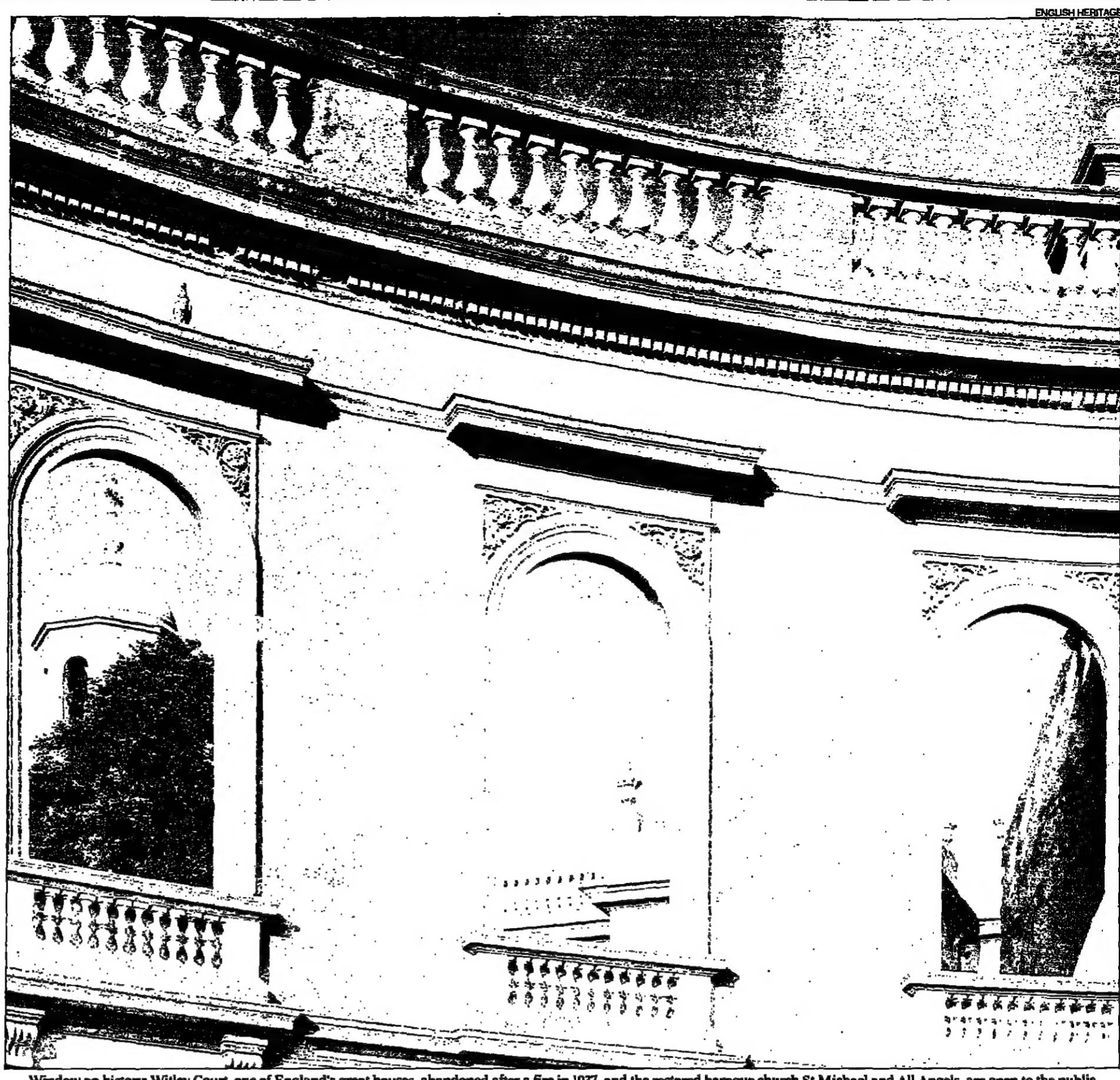
The walk through the woodland of alder, pine and rowan is dominated by the sound of birdsong, while on the stretch that passes alongside the Shropshire Union Canal, you may be lucky enough to see the brilliant blue flash of a kingfisher.

Oswestry, near the Welsh border, is North Shropshire's largest town. Its dominating feature is the castle mound, formed by debris from the Iron Age, and where a fort has stood since pre-Norman times. It was a regular target in the border wars and the Welsh hero, Owain Glyndwr, captured it in his uprising of 1400. However it was not Glyndwr but Oliver Cromwell who reduced it to the piles of stone it is today.

The Puritan leader ordered its destruction as a reprisal for the Royalist sympathies of the town in 1644. It was acquired by the local council last century as a park to mark Victoria's Jubilee. There are some fine inns in the town and the Old Grammar School, first opened at Grindlegate in 1407, is still in business as a tourist information centre.

There is also a moving memorial to its famous son, Wilfred Owen, the First World War poet who was born in the town. The simple, silver plaque records Owen's birth, his award of the Military Cross in October 1918 and his death a month later.

On either side are verses from two of his best poems, *Anthem for Doomed Youth* and *Futility*. Both are poignantly appropriate. Owen was 25 when he died in a pointless action less than a week before the war ended. His parents, who lived in Shrewsbury, heard of his son's death on the day the church bells tolled to mark the Armistice.



Window on history: Witney Court, one of England's great houses, abandoned after a fire in 1937, and the restored baroque church St Michael and All Angels, are open to the public

WORCESTERSHIRE FACT FILE

- David Blundell stayed at The Elms, Abberley, Worcestershire WR6 6AT (01299 896666). The house was built in 1710 and stands in the Teme Valley, 20 minutes drive from Worcester and the M5. Prices are £75 for a single room per night, including breakfast. Standard doubles £110. (Prices 10 per cent lower Sunday-Thursday nights.) Dinner from £25 per person.
- Getting there: Travel by rail to Kidderminster. From London Euston, fares are from £26 for a daytrip, £33.50 return journey time, two hours 45 minutes. By road, take the M5 heading south and leave at the first exit, for Droitwich.
- Maps: The Ordnance Survey Pathfinder 973 map for Great Witney (£4.50); Landranger 138 - Kidderminster & The Wyre Forest (£4.95).
- Tourist information: Worcester TIC (01905 726311).

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CHESS

by Raymond Keene

THE organisers of the UK Chess Challenge for British schoolchildren claim that, with 24,000 entrants, it was the largest chess tournament ever held.

The organisers also state that they have research data from a study in the Bronx and Harlem districts of New York demonstrating that chess players outperform non-chess playing contemporaries in terms of literacy, numeracy and attendance at school. In addition it was found that the juvenile crime rates dropped and chess players became more self-assured. Success in chess gave them confidence to aspire to achieve in other areas of their lives.

This week's game is a further sample of play by the overall winner of the UK Chess Challenge.

White: David Hor **Black:** Richard Cleveland

Played at the Mind Sports Olympiad, Festival Hall, August 1997

Dutch Defence

1 d4 e6 2 c4 f5
3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Nf3 d5
5 Bg5 c6 6 e3 Be7
7 Bc3 0-0 8 0-0 Nc6
9 Bxe7 Qxe7 10 Nc5 Rf5

White has thermatically exchanged off the dark-squared bishops and thus has good control over the dark squares.

However, Black has his own pluses in the form of his powerful knight at e4 and his impending kingside attack.

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13 Nf3 g5

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MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Q There is an area in which you can help me which is more etiquette than manners. After five years as a widower, I remarried. My current wife's niece contends she has become my niece and is offended when I introduce her as my wife's niece. Is she my niece? My in-laws from my previous marriage say I am still their son-in-law. Am I? Name and address withheld.

A A niece is defined as the daughter of a brother or sister, so your wife's niece is mistaken when she contends that she is your niece, too. She is correctly introduced as "my wife's niece", or "my niece by marriage". However, since this is obviously important to her, and manners are fundamentally about not doing things that upset others, you could stretch the semantics and refer to her as "our niece". Your in-laws from your previous marriage are also mistaken, even though this earlier bond was ended by death and not divorce. Just as it is unacceptable to have two wives, it is equally inappropriate to boast a double dose of in-laws. They are more suitably styled as "my late wife's parents", while they can refer to you as "our late daughter's husband".

Q There are many conflicting opinions about the use of fish knives. Would you, once and for all, put paid to this seemingly insuperable problem? **Neil Brooks, London WC2**

A Poor old fish knives, what a scorn these pretty and practical tools attract. The prejudice around them developed in the 19th century, when there was a simultaneous proliferation of new money and novel eating implements. Fish eaters (as they were then called) became associated by some with the *nouveau riche*. Those who wished to make a point continued to eat fish either with a fork and a small piece of bread in the old Georgian style, or later with two forks. The latter method was affected by some diehards until quite recently. Despite all their bad PR, fish knives are to be found at some grand tables. So if you've got 'em and like 'em — then use 'em.

Q A friend of mine who I shall call Margaret Buckton is the tenant of an historic house. Under her lease she shows coach parties and other visitors around in the summer, but she is not allowed to charge under the terms of the trust. Currently, at the end of the summer, she is left with about £15 to give back to the trust. Is there any way she can encourage people to donate more? **C.J., Lincolnshire**

A I suggest she follows the example of a past treasurer to the Conservative Party, who rather



WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

LOKI
a. Poor girl in German fairytale
b. A Capian Sea fish
c. A bad boy

RUNOUT
a. Tanker deballasting
b. Detention centre exercise
c. An artillery design feature

CONIC SECTIONS
a. Geometric figures
b. Shipboard morning parade
c. Weather forecaster's map

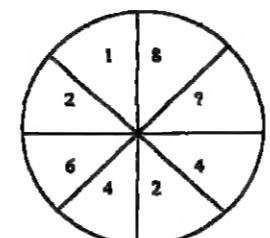
HIPPOCAMPUS
a. Big-game photographer's hide
b. A pop university
c. A seahorse

Answers on page 24

TWO BRAINS

THE brain weighs about the same as a bag of sugar — approximately 2 percent of bodyweight. But it accounts for up to 20 per cent of the body's energy needs. Each nerve cell in the brain can be connected with up to 100,000 others. Counting each nerve connection in the human brain cortex — the outer layer — at the rate of one per second would take 32 million years.

Question 1:
What is the missing number?



Question 2:
Tri is to sex as quad is to ...?

Answers on page 27.

CROSS WORDS

by Brian Greer

As I was saying, the main lexicographical guides in *The Times* crossword are Collins English Dictionary, the Concise Oxford and Chambers. The first two are relatively similar in their coverage of commonly used vocabulary.

Chambers, by contrast, contains more obscure words and meanings, including archaisms, Scottish words, variants of spellings by the likes of Milton, Spenser and Shakespeare, and the occasional *hapax legomenon* such as "egma" (Costard's attempt at "enigma" in *Love's Labour's Lost*).

My usual practice is to consult all three dictionaries. One of the lessons I have learnt as a

compiler, and even more painfully as a crossword editor, is that dictionaries and other reference works are by no means consistent in definition or even spelling of words.

On one occasion, a reader took issue with the spelling the Hungarian dance as "czardas" rather than "csardas". The Concise Oxford includes the former as a variant of the latter, Collins gives only "czardas", whereas Chambers states that "czardas" is an erroneous spelling of "csardas" (so why include it?).

Meanings also vary, particularly (or so it seems to me) in the definition of food. "Entremets" is a "light dish served ... between the main courses" in Chambers

(so why include it?).

• Brian Greer is Crossword Editor of *The Times*.

PICTURE LINE

READERS are invited to suggest what the people in the picture below are saying.



The man in the fourth row — I'm making you the Bishop of Liverpool



This picture, recently printed in *The Times*, will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted.

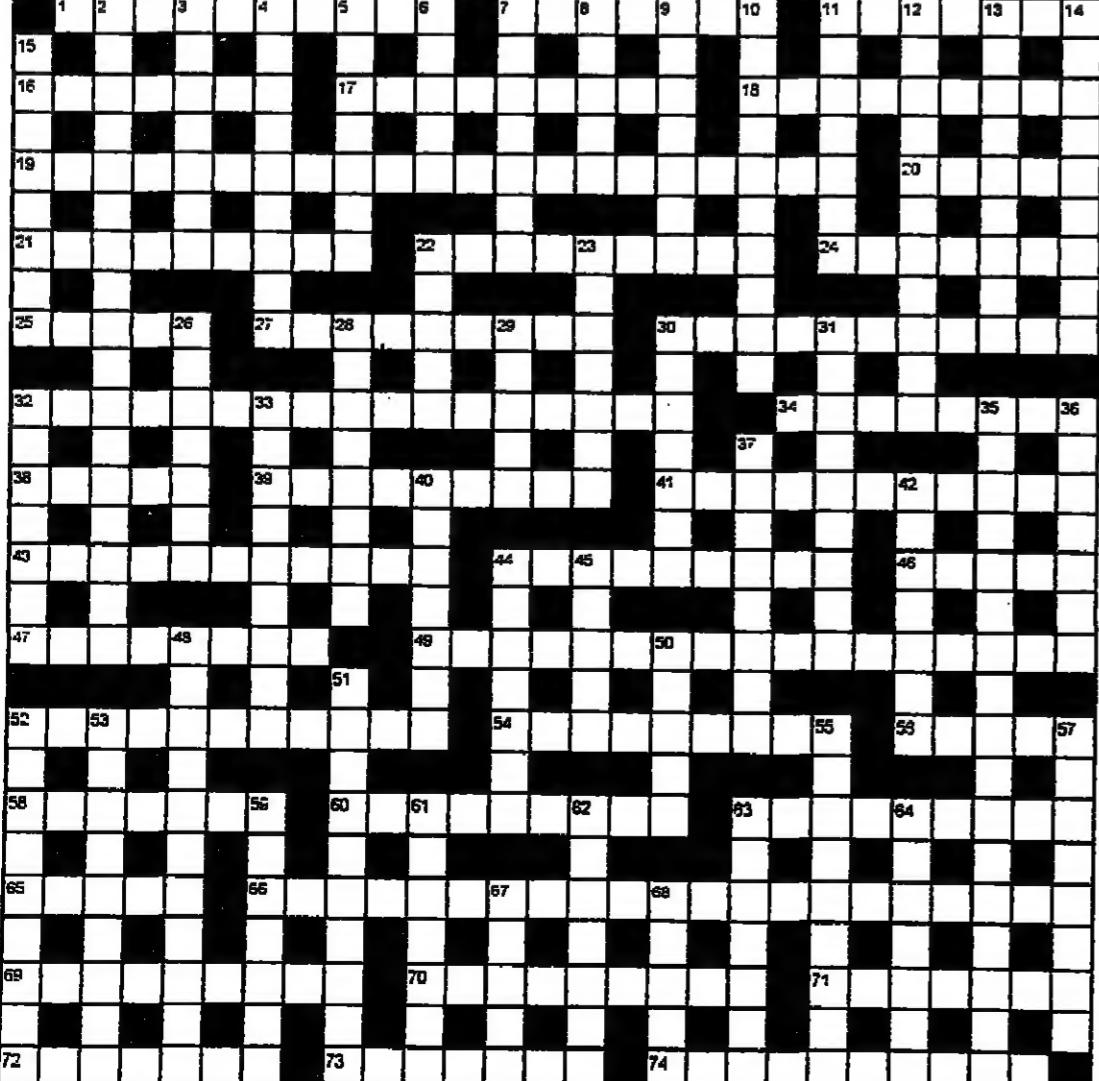
Send "speech bubble" suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to PictureLine, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, September 24.

JUMBO CROSSWORD 129

The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £105, the world's first interchangeable, capless rollerball/ballpoint pen. Streamlined and made from silver-plated black resin, it has perfect writing balance. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 129, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN to arrive by Monday October 6. The name of the winner will be published in *Weekend* on Saturday, October 11

ALFRED DUNHILL
LONDON



ACROSS

- One buzzed in by top men not somehow in complete control (10)
- A domestic device for keeping the rest apart (4,3)
- Commercial traveller suffered a car finally jam-packed (7)
- Morally strict saint before going after gold (7)
- Provisional shelter — it's set back in avenue (9)
- Believing something, and trying to impress, after a little drink (9)
- Prepares for various debates and acts with little enthusiasm (4,7,3,7)
- Saying that's not of the BC era? (5)
- Demanding woman could make great man start to tremble (9)
- Endlessly put up with ruler, and favoured showing fresh enthusiasm (9)
- Demanding old lover, one with respectable blemish (7)
- Bloomers you come across in prose sometimes (5)
- Dubious forecast makes Rex join very large company in expectation (9)
- MP seeing supporter embracing short man and companion (1,1)
- Talker on TV is not as clear, I fancy (17)
- Endless radiance attaches to an atmosphere around Fairy Queen (8)
- Crash reverberated behind car park (5)
- Unfashionable drapes looking terrible unfurled (9)
- They should make sound excellent within nodules (7-4)
- Fluffy stuff, this was first seen in urban community (11)
- Part arose — from its motion? (9)
- What pirate like? (5)
- What tall man might wear in many clubs when congregating? (4,4)
- Poorly paid, after such regular contributions? (8,9)
- Confine naughty nieces threatening everyone involved? (11)
- Lost again at sea and longing for home? (9)
- Fabric made by fantastic spinner finally running out (5)
- Bread is thrown for gull, perhaps (3,4)
- They make court characters look flat (4-5)
- Modern lady — treat in a new way? (6-3)
- Woman, fifty, found in a river (5)
- Following a false trail to obstruct Charles II, perhaps — not perched in an oak? (7,3,5,4)
- Seek to establish a view in Sussex, or back away from argument? (5,4)
- The sound of this bird makes cat besmirch itself (9)
- In mature years, care to resettle in country area? (7)
- Boy grasps some of the Bard's work? (7)
- What's found among children, ten — terrible understanding? (7)
- The right documents (5-5)

DOWN

- Person met in satire — possibly an unfair caricature? (17)
- One may a moment of such lifelessness in a physics lesson (7)

- Person met in satire — possibly an unfair caricature? (17)
- One may a moment of such lifelessness in a physics lesson (7)

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